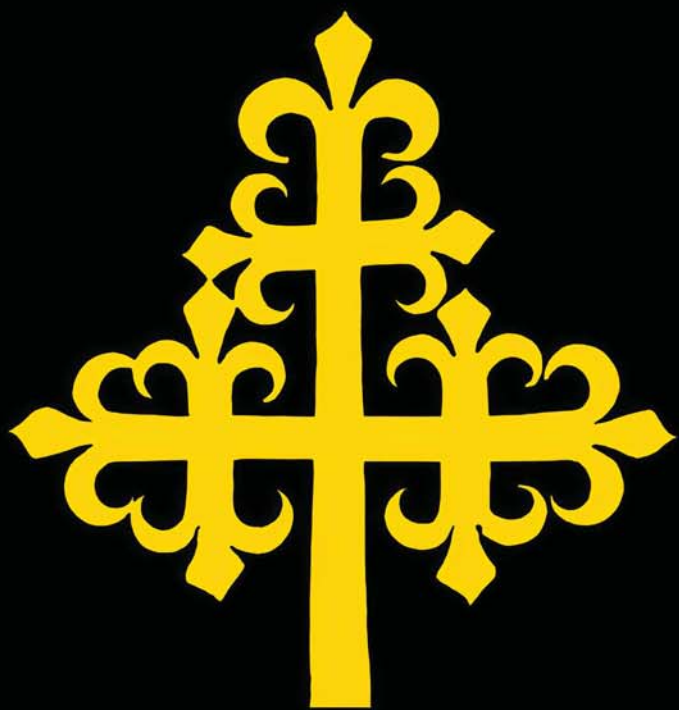


# CATHARISM



THE WAY OF PURITY

# **BERSERKER**

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## **BOOKS**

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## The Book of the Two Principles

### Editorial Notes

*The Book of the Two Principles* is the largest surviving work of Cathar literature. It provides an important witness to the sophistication of Cathar argumentation against orthodox theology -- a debate in which the Good Christians prevailed, at least in the contemporary judgment of a large portion of the population of Southern France during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. It should be remembered that the Good Christians dominated the argument and won the heart of Languedoc; it was a genocidal and generation-long crusade against them by Pope and Kings that they lost.

The work is composed of seven sections, all probably written in the early thirteenth century by an Italian Cathar. The most likely author is identified as John of Lugio, a "True Christian" who lived in the vicinity of Lake Garda (between Brescia and Verona) around 1240. In the fourteenth century the manuscript fell into orthodox hands, and remained in Dominican monastic libraries until being transferred in modern times to the Biblioteca Nazionale in Florence. It was first published in 1939 -- after six hundred years of suppression.

Whoever the author, he was very well-read and a skillful debater. It is obvious he was thoroughly familiar with the Latin Vulgate Bible and with the arguments used by Catholic polemicists against the Cathars. In evidence of the erudition of its author, the treatise has been noted to include citations from Roman law, a pseudo-Aristotelian work, and phrases from the writings of Solomon ibn Gabirol, the eleventh century Andalucian Jewish philosopher. The author explains his purpose in his introduction:

Since many persons are hampered in rightly understand the truth, to enlighten them, to stimulate those who do have right understanding, and also for the delight of my soul, I have made it my purpose to explain our true faith by evidence from the Holy Scriptures and with eminently suitable arguments, invoking to my efforts the aid of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

This is a long text (about 35,000 words in translation); it is presented here as one single document. This version is closely based on the translation appearing in: Walter L. Wakefield and Austin P. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages* (2nd ed., New York: Columbia University Press, 1991), p. 511ff. The text presented below includes a few minor corrections and occasional minor changes in phrasing (and probably a few new typos). We recommend serious students consult the published edition, which has extensive notes that are not reflected in this online edition.

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# The Book of the Two Principles

## Part 1. On Free Will

[1] **Here Begins the Book of the Two Principles.** Since many persons are hampered in rightly understand the truth, to enlighten them, to stimulate those who do have right understanding, and also for the delight of my soul, I have made it my purpose to explain our true faith by evidence from the Holy Scriptures and with eminently suitable arguments, invoking to my efforts the aid of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

[2] *On the Two Principles.* To the honor of the Most Holy Father, I wish to begin my discussion concerning the two principles by refuting the belief in one Principle, however much this may contradict well-nigh all religious persons. We may commence as follows: Either there is only one First Principle, or there is more than one. If, indeed, there were one and not more, as the unenlightened say, then, of necessity, He would be either good or evil. But surely not evil, since then only evil would proceed from Him and not good, as Christ says in the Gospel of the Blessed Matthew: "And the evil tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can an evil tree bring forth good fruit." And the Blessed James says in his Epistle: "Doth a fountain send forth out of the same hole sweet and bitter water? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear grapes; or the vine, figs? So neither can the salt water yield sweet."

[3] *On the Goodness of God.* Now, our opponents are clear in their assertion that God is good, holy, just, wise, and true; that He is also called pure goodness and is above all praise, as they seek to prove by the following citations and many others of like nature. For Jesus the son of Sirach says: "Glorify the Lord as much as ever you can, for He will yet far exceed, and His magnificence is wonderful. Blessing the Lord, exalt Him as much as you can, for He is above all praise." And David says "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and of His greatness there is no end"; and again, "Great is our Lord, and great is his power; and of His wisdom there is no number." And Paul says to the Romans: "O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How incomprehensible are His judgments and how unsearchable His ways, and so on. And in the *Liber de causis* is written, "The first cause is far greater than can be described."

[4] *That God Knows All Things from Eternity.* Whence they stoutly affirm that God knows all things from eternity because of the greatness of His

wisdom; that all the past, the present, and the future are always before Him and He knows all things before they come to pass, as says Susanna in the Book of Daniel, "O eternal God, who knowest hidden things, who knowest all things before they come to pass." And Jesus, son of Sirach, says, "For all things were known to the Lord God before they were created; so also after they were perfected He beholdeth all things." And the Apostle writes to the Hebrews, "Neither is there any creature invisible in His sight, but all things are naked and open to His eyes.

[5] *On the Goodness, Holiness, and Justice of God.* It is clearly demonstrated, moreover, that our Lord God is good, holy, and just, as is said above. For David says: "How good is God to Israel, to them that are of a right heart"; and again, "The Lord is faithful in all His words and holy in all His works"; and again, "The Lord is sweet and righteousness; therefore He will give a law to sinners in the way"; and again, God is a just judge, strong and patient; is He angry every day?" And in the Book of Wisdom it is written, "For so much then as thou art just, Thou orderest all things justly."

[6] *On the Omnipotence of God.* For the Lord is called omnipotent, as our opponents avow, and He can do whatsoever pleases Him; nor can anyone resist Him, or say, "Why dost Thou so?" As Ecclesiastes says: For He will do all that pleaseth Him and His word is full of power; neither can any man say to Him: 'Why dost Thou so?' " And David says, "But our God in heaven; He hath done all things whatsoever He would," And in the Apocalypse is written: "Saith the Lord God, who is and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." And again, "Great and wonderful are Thy works, O Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Thy ways, O King of Ages! Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and magnify Thy name? For Thou only art holy."

[7] *On the First Proposition, against My Opponents.* At this point I take issue with the thesis (*sententiam*) of those who assert that there is only one First Principle. For I say: Assume that God—who is good, just, holy, wise, righteous, "faithful in all His words, and holy in all His works," who is almighty and knows all things before they come to pass, as I have shown above—created and arrayed His angels as He chose from the beginning through Himself alone and without any apparent extraneous compulsion from anyone; and assume, further, that that He knew the fate of all His angels before they came into being, because within His providence existed all the causes for which those angels must be found wanting in the future and must remain for all time things of evil and demons in His sight, as nearly all our opponents say: then, without doubt, it follows ineluctably



that those angels could never remain good, holy, or humble with their Lord, in whose power of necessity all things occurred from eternity, except to the extent to which God himself had knowledge from the beginning. For one who knows fully all things that shall come to pass is powerless, in so far as he is self-consistent, to do anything except that which he himself has known from eternity that he shall do. This I prove.

[8] *On Impossibility.* For I say that just as it is impossible for that which is past not to be in the past, so it is impossible for that which is in the future not to be in the future. This is especially true in God, who from the beginning understood and knew that which would come to pass, so that existence as something still to come was possible for an event before it occurred. It was without doubt necessary that the future itself (It should exist wholly in Him, because He would know and understand from eternity all the causes which are required for bringing the future to fruition. And it is the more true since, if there is only one First Principle, God himself is the sole cause of all causes; and above all if it is fact, as the opponents of truth assert, that God does whatever pleases himself and His might is not affected by anyone.

I say further: If God understood all things from the beginning and knew that His angels would in the future become demons, because of the character which He himself gave them from the beginning (because all the causes which would make those angels become demons in the future arose entirely within His providence and it did not please God to make them otherwise than He did), it of necessity follows that the afore-said angels could never in any way have avoided becoming demons. And this is particularly true because it is impossible that anything which God knows to be future may be in any way changed so that it does not come to pass in the future – above all, in Him who from eternity knows the future completely, as we have just seen explained.

How, then, can the unlearned say that the aforesaid angels could remain good, holy, and humble with their Lord for all time, since it was from eternity utterly impossible in God? They are therefore by the most valid reasoning forced to confess that, in accordance with their thesis God knowingly and in full awareness created and made His angels of such imperfection from the beginning that they could in no way escape evil. And so God himself, of whom the words good, holy, just, wise, and righteous were used above, who is above all praise, as was previously declared, was the whole cause and origin of all evil – which is obviously to be denied. For this reason we are required to acknowledge two

principles. One is good. The other is evil, the source and cause of the imperfection of the angels and also of all evil."

[9] *A Reply to the Foregoing.* But perchance someone will say: The wisdom and providence which God himself had from the beginning, induced in His own creatures no unavoidable necessity to do good or to do evil. For this, perhaps, they might offer an illustration thus: If a certain man in a mansion should see another man walking of his own free will along a way," one might perchance say that it is not the wisdom nor the foresight of him in the mansion which makes the other man walk along the way, even though the former is fully cognizant of and sees the way the other is going.

So with God. Although He knew fully and foresaw from eternity the fate of all His angels, His wisdom and providence did not make His angles become demons, but they became demons and things of evil by their own will, because they did not wish to remain holy and humble before their Lord, but wickedly puffed themselves up in pride against Him.

[10] *Rejection of the Preceding Illustration.* One must in truth reject this very misleading illustration. Since God in himself was—in the view of our opponents—from the beginning wholly the cause of all His angels, they indubitably derived exclusively and essentially from Him, in a way that was pleasing to Him, the character, the formation or creation, which God himself gave them. And, according to these persons, that which the angels were, they were through Him wholly, in all their causes which made it inevitable for them to become demons in the characteristics, nor did they derive anything at all from any other than Him alone, nor did it please their God to create or make the angels otherwise from the beginning. For these persons believe that had He so wished, He could most easily have made them otherwise. And so it seems clear that God did not seek to make His angels perfect from the beginning, but knowingly and in full awareness endowed them with all future. This was, of necessity, within the power of God, in whom all things occur inevitably from eternity. Whence, the assertion that the wisdom or providence of God did not cause His angels to become things of evil and demons is not valid in the same sense as is the statement that the foresight of the man in the mansion did not cause the other man to walk a long the way. Above all, this is true because he who walked along the way is not the creature of him who is in the mansion, nor does he have his being or even his strength from him. But if one had his strength from the other and all the causes whatsoever which were necessary for completion of that journey—just as the aforesaid angels, according to the belief of our opponents, had them from their God

—it would be untrue to say that the foresight of the man in the mansion did not make the other man walk along the way, for it is clear that the latter would walk only because of the former, as is most plainly explained above with reference to God. And so no man can rationally condemn those angels when, owing to the character which they had from their Lord, they could do no other than they did. In the same way that an Ethiopian cannot change his skin or a leopard his spots, because of the nature which they have from their maker, so the angels, if we accept the belief of our opponents, could in no way avoid evil, because of the character which their God gave to them from the beginning. This is a most wicked belief.

But now our opponents may, if they can, eagerly try another way of escape. For they plainly say: Had He wished it, God might well from the beginning have made His angels of such perfection that they would have been quite unable to sin or to do evil, and this on three counts, which are that He is almighty, that He knows all things from eternity, and that His omnipotence is not qualified by anyone. But God was not willing to make them of such perfection; and they advance this reason: If God had from the beginning made His angels of such perfection that they could commit no sin or evil of any kind but inevitably must obey their

Lord, the Lord himself would have given them no thanks for their obedience or service. For thus God could say to them: I give you no thanks for your service, since you cannot act otherwise. Perhaps our opponents might offer an illustration of this point: If a certain lord had a servant "who knew the will of his lord" in all things and could do nothing at all except follow it, this lord they say, would give no thanks at all to his servant for his service, because the latter would be unable to act otherwise.

[11] *On the Free Will of the Angels.* And thus, they say, God created His angels of such nature from the beginning that they could at their pleasure do good or evil; and they call this "free will" (*liberum arbitrium*) or, according to some of them, "choice" (*arbitrium*), to will a certain free strength or power by which he to whom it is given is equally capable of good or evil. And so they insist that God in reason and justice could allot glory or punishment to the angels; that is to say, they might receive punishment because they were able to do good and did not. Thus God could reasonably say to them: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink," 1 and so on. This is as if He were to say: You were able to refrain

from giving but because you gave, there-fore do you in reason and justice possess the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Then, on the other hand, the Lord himself could reasonably say to sinners: "Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me not to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me not to drink," and so on. This is as if He were to say: You were able to give and did not; therefore, by reason and justice will you go to the fire eternal. For, they say, if they had no power at all to give Him to eat or drink, by what reason could the Lord himself have said to them, "for I was hungry and you gave me not to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me not to drink," and so on? Therefore, they affirm, God did not wish to create His angels perfect, that is, of such perfection that they were quite unable to sin or to do evil, for the Lord himself would have shown them no favor for their service, as has already been said.

They also say that God was not willing to create the angels of such nature that they could always do only evil and not good, because the aforesaid angels could reasonably excuse themselves, saying: We were unable to do anything but evil because of the character which you gave us from the beginning. So they say that God created His angels of such character from the beginning that they could do good and evil. As a result the Lord himself could reasonably judge His angels, in that they were able to sin and had not sinned, or they could refrain from sin and had sinned. And thus our opponents unwisely exult at our expense.

[12] *Refutation of the Thesis of Our Opponents.* I shall now clarify what has just been said, namely, their declaration that if God had made His angels perfect from the beginning, in such perfection that they would have been unable to sin at all or to do evil, the Lord would have given them no thanks for their service because they would have been unable to do otherwise. I am convinced that their statement greatly strengthens my position. For if God shows favor to anyone for his service, this seems to me necessarily to follow: namely, that there is something wanting to God and to His will, that He wishes for and desires something done which does not yet exist, or that He desires to have what He does not have. And so, pursuant to this, it seems that we can serve God by fulfilling what is wanting to His will or by rendering to Him something which He needs and desires, either for Himself or for others, as the Gospel text quoted above clearly implies, to wit: "For I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink," and so on; and again, "As long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me." And again, Christ said to Jerusalem, "How often would I have gathered together thy children, as the hen doth gather her chickens under her wings, and thou

wouldst not?" And the Lord, speaking through Ezechiel to Samaria, says, "Thy uncleanness is execrable. Because I desired to cleanse thee and thou art not cleansed from thy filthiness." From this it seems manifest that the will of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ, was not then wholly fulfilled. This would be impossible, were there only one First Principle, good, holy, just, and perfect.

Hence, this is the basis on which we can serve God and Christ, when we carry out their will with the aid of the true Father, namely, by alleviating hunger and other hurtful things among the creatures of the good Lord. Then the Lord himself may thank us for fulfilling that which He wishes for and desires to exist. And this seems to uphold my thesis, for neither God nor man can desire or wish anything unless first He have that which He does not desire and which troubles Him, either on His own account or on another's behalf. In particular, to declare that this Principle could be burdened with anything which He does not desire, and that there could be something which could trouble Him and make Him sorrowful on His own behalf or for others seems quite in contradiction to the position of those who say that there is only one First Principle, whole and perfect.

[This could not be] unless He were divided against Himself, harmful to His very self and His Son, that is to say, by Himself alone without extraneous compulsion from anyone doing that which would be wholly contrary to Himself and to His own in the future, that which would make Him sad, sorrowful, and dolorous. For that Lord who, according to our opponents, created male and female and all other living things says in Genesis, "And being touched inwardly with sorrow of heart, he said, 'I will destroy man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, from man even to beasts, from the creeping thing even to the fowls of the air, for it repenteth me that I have made them.'" This the true God most certainly would not do in and of himself, were there but one First Principle, holy and perfect. However, the above text can be interpreted as though He said: There is another, a principle of evil, which makes my heart to sorrow by so acting against my creation that it compels me to destroy the created from the face of the earth because of their sins. This principle makes me repent that I made them, that is to say, [makes me] suffer on their account. On the other hand, following the doctrine of one Principle, the text is best understood thus: It repenteth me that I have made them; namely, I shall have to undergo suffering and pain in the future, through myself alone, because I made them. And so it seems manifest, according to the doctrine of those persons who believe that there is only one First Principle, that this God and His Son, Jesus Christ, who, according to them are one and the same, causes Himself sadness, sorrow,

and suffering, bearing pain in Himself without any extraneous intervention by anyone. But it is impossible and wicked to believe this of the true God.

[13] *On the Principle of Evil.* Therefore, it behooves us of necessity to confess that there is another principle, one of evil, who works most wickedly against the true God and His creation; and this principle seems to move God against His own creation and the creation against its God, and causes God himself to wish for and desire that which in and of himself He could never wish for at all. Thus it is that through the compulsion of the evil enemy God yearns and is wearied, relents, is burdened, and is served by His own creatures. Whence God says to His people through Isaiah: "But thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thy iniquities"; and again, "I am weary of bearing them." And Malachi says, "You have wearied the Lord with your words." And David says, "And [he] repented according to the multitude of His mercies." And the Apostle says in his first Epistle to the Corinthians, "For we are God's coadjutors." Of the compulsion of God, however, the Lord himself says to Satan in the Book of Job, "But thou hast moved me against him, that I should afflict him without cause." And through Ezechiel the same Lord says, "And when they caught the souls of my people, they gave life to their souls. And they violated me among my people, for a handful of barley and a piece of bread, to kill souls which should not die and to save souls alive which should not live." And the Lord, lamenting over His people, says through Isaiah: "Because I called and you did not answer; I spoke and you did not hear, and you did evil in my eyes, and you have chosen the things that displease me." "

And so it appears plainly that this concept of how one may serve God buttresses my argument. For if there were only one First Principle, holy, just, and good, as has been declared of the true Lord God in the foregoing, He would not make Himself sorrowful, sad, or dolorous; neither would He bear pain in himself, nor grow weary or repent, nor be aided by anyone, nor be burdened with the sins of anyone, nor yearn or wish for anything to be done which was delayed in coming to pass, since nothing at all could be done contrary to His will; nor could He be moved by anyone or injured, nor could there be anything which would trouble God, but all things would obey Him from overwhelming necessity. And most especially would this be true because all things would be by Him and in Him and of Him," in all their dispositions, if there were only one First Principle, holy and just, as I have shown above in discussing the true God.

[14] *On Service to God.* From this comes the basis for our service to God, in that we may fulfill His works, or rather, that God may consummate through us that which He proposes and wishes to be done. In this wise He achieved salvation of His people through the Lord Jesus, although Christ did nothing good through himself or even by free will. For He said of himself: "I cannot of myself do anything"; and again, "But the Father, who abideth in me, he doth the works." " And so, we serve God when we fulfill His will with His help, not that we are able through free will to do anything good of which He himself is not the cause and principle. Thus, the Blessed James says in his Epistle, "Every best gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights." " And in the Gospel of John, Christ says, "No man can come to me except the Father, who hath sent me, draw him." And of himself, He said: "I cannot of myself do anything. As I hear, so I judge"; and again, "But the Father, who abideth in me, he doth the works." And the Apostle says to the Ephesians: "For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, for it is the gift of God; not of works, that no man may glory." " And the same Apostle says to the Romans, "So then it is not of him that willeth nor of him that runneth but of God that showeth mercy.

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who hath begun a good work in you will perfect it unto the day of our Lord Christ Jesus"; and again, "For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to accomplish, according to His good will." And in his second Epistle to the Corinthians the same Apostle says: "And such confidence we have through Christ toward the Lord. Not that we are sufficient to think anything of ourselves as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is from God, who also hath made us fit ministers of the new testament, not in the letter but in the spirit. For the letter killeth, but the spirit quickeneth." And John the Baptist said, "A man cannot receive anything unless it be given him from heaven." And David says: "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Unless the Lord keep the city, he watcheth in vain that keepeth it." " And Jeremiah says, "I know, O Lord, that the way of a man is not his, neither is it in a man to walk and to direct his steps." And Paul says to the Corinthians, "But by the grace of God I am what I am." " And in the parables of Solomon it is written: "Counsel and equity is mine, prudence is mine, strength is mine By me kings reign, and lawgivers decree just things. By me princes rule and the mighty decree justice"; and again, "The steps of a man are guided by the Lord; but who is the man that can understand his own way." " And in the Gospel of Matthew, Christ says: "All things are delivered to me by my Father; and no one knoweth the Son but the Father, neither doth anyone know the Father but the Son and he to whom it shall please the Son to reveal Him." And in the Gospel of John,

He says of himself: "I am the way, the truth, and the light. No man cometh to the Father, but by me"; and again, "For without me you can do nothing." And in the Gospel of the Blessed Luke, He says, "Strive to enter by the narrow gate; for many, I say to you, shall seek to enter and shall not be able."

[15] *On Destroying the Concept of Free Will.* From this it is quite evident that we cannot serve God by doing anything good by free will, as a result of which He would give thanks to us as if for our own individual strength and power—that is, a good of which He is not the cause and principle, as was plainly pointed out above. And most especially is this so because we have no powers at all of ourselves, as the Blessed Peter says in the Acts of the Apostles, in regard to the lame man made whole: "Ye men of Israel, why wonder you at this or why look you upon us, as if by our own strength or power we had made this man to walk?" This is as if he had said: Not we but "the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" did this.

And so it clearly seems that whatever of good is found in the creatures of God is directly from Him and of Him," and He brings the good into being and is its cause, as was explained above. If evil, however, is found in the people of God," it is not truly from God himself, nor of Him, nor does He bring it into being, nor was He nor is He its cause, as Jesus the son of Sirach says, "He hath commanded no man to do wickedly, and He hath given no man license to sin." This is to be understood to mean that He did not of himself absolutely and directly do so. And also, no evil can come from a creature of God, itself good, unless there be a cause of evil. For through Ezechiel the Lord says: "The rod hath blossomed, pride hath budded. Iniquity is risen up into a rod of impiety; not of them nor of the people nor of the noise of them--therefore, from some other source! And Christ says in the Gospel of Matthew: "The kingdom of heaven is likened to a man that sowed good seed in his field; but while men were asleep, his enemy came by night and over-sowed cockle among the wheat, and went his way." And David says: "O God, the heathens are come into thine inheritance; they have defiled thy holy temple; they have made Jerusalem as a place to keep fruit." And the Lord through the prophet Joel says: "For a nation is come up upon my land, strong and without number; his teeth are like the teeth of a lion, and his cheek teeth as of a lion's whelp. He hath laid my vineyard waste, and hath piled off the bark of my fig tree; he hath stripped it bare and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white." So one may clearly understand that pride and wickedness and impiety, the weeds and the pollution of the holy temple of God, and the wasting of His vineyard, cannot proceed exclusively and essentially from



the good God or from a good creature of His which is wholly from Him in all its characteristics. It now follows, therefore, that there is another principle, one of evil, who is the source and cause of all pride and wickedness, of all defilement of the people, and of all other evils.

[16] *On the Contention of My Opponents That God Did Not Wish to Create His Angels Perfect.* I now intend to discuss my opponents' contention that God did not wish to create His angels perfect, that is, of such perfection that they should forever be capable only of good actions, never of evil, nor, on the other hand, that they should be forever capable only of evil, never of good; but, in their words, that He created them of such nature that they could do good or do evil according to their pleasure, as may be seen set forth above.

Now, I say that if it did not please God to create His angels of such nature that they were capable only of always doing good, never evil, or capable of always doing evil, never good, but it pleased Him to create them of such nature that they were capable of doing both good and evil, the statement must be understood to mean "capable of so acting at different times." For it is impossible that angels could have been so created by God that simultaneously, at one and the same time, they were capable of doing both good and evil. From this, if we accept the doctrine stated, it follows of necessity that the aforesaid angels did good acts and evil acts, not merely good alone or evil alone, but in very truth both good and evil. And so it seems clear that these angels could in no way for all time escape evil, because of the character which they had from their Lord. And thus, according to this, God would be the cause and origin of that evil; which is an impossibility, and it is foolish to suggest it.

And yet perhaps at this point my opponents, speaking calmly at first and then shouting, would cry out, saying: Indeed these angels were always capable of doing both good and evil, had they so desired, because they had free will from God, that is, a free strength or power by which they were equally capable of good and evil at their pleasure. And thus, they would declare, God is not the First Cause of that evil, because the angels sinned by the free will given to them, by their own choice.

[17] *Proof That There Is No Free Will.* If anyone should scrutinize minutely the arguments set forth above, he would see that my position is not weakened by the concept of free will, meaning a free strength or power which our opponents say was given by God, by which the angels were capable of good or evil at their pleasure. Yet, in the opinion of the wise, it will appear impossible for anyone to have a potency for two contraries simultaneously, at one and the same time; that is, for one to

have a potency for doing good for all time and for doing evil for all time. And especially is this true in God, who has complete knowledge of the future, and according to whose wisdom all things are done of necessity from eternity.

And it is particularly puzzling how the good angels would have been capable of hating goodness like unto their own, which existed from eternity as did its cause, and of delighting in wickedness, which did not yet exist and which is the exact opposite of goodness; and this without cause if, as the unenlightened say, there was no cause of evil at all. And especially is this so because it is written in the Book of Jesus the son of Sirach: "Every beast loveth its like, so also every man him that is nearest to himself. All flesh shall consort with the like to itself and every man shall associate himself to his like." And again, "Birds resort unto their like, so truth will return to them that practice her." And so it seems clear that the good angels would have sought rather to choose the good like unto themselves, which existed from eternity, than to spurn good and cleave to evil, which was not in existence (nor indeed was its cause [Satan], if I follow the belief of my opponents); yet it does not seem possible that anything can come into being without a cause. For so it is written: "It is impossible that whatever has a beginning should have no cause"; and again, "Everything which changes from potency to effect needs a cause by which it can be brought into effect." And also, according to my opponents, that which existed, namely good, had less effect than that which did not exist, namely evil; and this despite the fact that it is written, "A thing must have existence before it can have an effect." And also, one should clearly recognize that if a cause should wholly retain its original character, nothing would result from it other than that which it first produced. For every new effect is a result of a new factor of some sort, as is written: "For if something which was not an agent becomes an agent, this inevitably takes place because of a new factor of some sort." From this, one must realize that if the dispositions of the agent were to continue just as they originally were, and if it were, up to that point, affected by nothing new either internally or externally, assuredly the agent would have less the function of causing-to-exist than that of nonexistence, and nonexistence would persist indefinitely. For just as from diversity something different may arise, so from uniformity sameness persists.

And if, in fact, none of the angels could have sinned without free will, God would in no wise have given it, since He would have known that from this cause alone His kingdom would be corrupted. Moreover, the corruption of the angels would of necessity have come from the God who "is above all praise," which is a wicked thing to suppose. It follows from

this that there is another principle, one of evil, who is the source and cause of the corruption of the angels and of all evil.

[18] *On Free Will: That the Angels Had It Not.* Whence, it is obvious to the wise that the angels discussed above never had any such choice from God, that is, such power to desire, to know, and to do only good for all time, and not evil. If they had had, they would from overwhelming necessity have done and desired good for all time, never evil.

Therefore, by what reasoning, by what audacity, can the unenlightened say that the aforesaid angels could indeed always do only good if they chose? For from God, who knows the future completely, they had no potency, desire, knowledge, will, nor any other attribute (*causa*) whatsoever by which they could wholly avoid evil, as was made quite clear above. It may somehow be said, among men who are completely ignorant of the future and of all the causes which necessitate doing good or evil for all time or on different occasions, that the angels had such strength or power from God that they could do good and evil for all time. It seems, however, most clearly false in God, who has complete knowledge of the future, who knows from eternity all causes (the effect of which is to render it impossible for that which is future not to be in the future), according to whose wisdom all things are of necessity done from eternity.

So it happens that conflicting statements are many times heard among men who are entirely ignorant of the future or of the truth of things; to wit, when they declare that what never shall be may be, and what most certainly shall be cannot be. For instance, we sometimes say that Peter may live until tomorrow and that he may die today. Although it is impossible for Peter both to live until tomorrow and to die today, yet, because we are ignorant of the future, as of all the causes which control the life and death of Peter, we affirm that which is impossible to be possible, and that which is possible we say to be impossible. If, however, we knew the future completely and also all the causes which control the life or death of Peter, then we would not say that Peter may live until tomorrow and that he may die today. For if we knew that Peter would die today, then we would say that it is clearly necessary for Peter to die today, or that it is impossible for him to live until tomorrow. And if we knew that he would live until tomorrow, then we would say that it is clearly necessary for him to live until tomorrow, or that it is impossible for Peter to die today. However, because we do not know the future, we put forward the possible for the impossible and the impossible for the possible. But this cannot be true of Him who has complete knowledge of all the future.

I say further: Suppose a certain man was in a house with Peter and unquestionably saw him. And another man outside this house inquired of the one within, "Can it be that Peter is in the house?" If he who knows unquestionably that Peter is in the house because he sees him before his very eyes should answer the other, "It may be that Peter is in the house and it may be that he is not," there is no doubt that he would be speaking wrongly and contrary to his own knowledge in saying, "It may be that Peter is not in the house." For he knows without any doubt whatever that Peter was in the house because he saw him before his very eyes.

So I say of the free will said by my opponent to be given by God: As pertains to the God who knows wholly all the future, in whom are known from eternity all the causes which render it impossible for that which is future not to be in the future, in whose wisdom are all things of necessity done from eternity, the aforesaid angels never had from Him a free capacity for freedom to choose, to know or to do good for all time. This is so especially because God himself without doubt knew and saw the end of all His angels before they came into being, just as the man who saw Peter and knew him unquestionably to be in the house would be speaking wrongly if he had said, "It may be that Peter is not in the house." So I say in the matter of free will of the angels in God that it was never true to say that the angels could not sin; this is especially true in respect of a God who wholly knows the future. And to say that they did not wish to sin signifies nothing, because good angels do not, without a cause, wish to do evil. For the wise realize that it is impossible for the good, without a cause, to hate good and desire evil, since, as was stated above, nothing at all can exist without a cause. It was, therefore, necessary in God for those angels to become things of evil and demons in the future, because within His providence existed without exception all the causes by which they must be found wanting in the future. Without doubt, it was impossible in Him that they could remain good and holy for all time.

In the view of men who are ignorant of the future and of the whole truth it may, perhaps, somehow be said that the aforesaid angels could both do good and do evil for all time. But in the view of men who know the whole truth, be it of the future or of all causes which are requisite to doing good for all time or to so doing on different occasions, it is absolutely impossible that the angels could have freedom to do good for all time, together with freedom to do evil for all time; rather, in their view, it would be wholly necessary for these angels to be found wanting in had from God — as the statement of the dullards asserts — a free capacity or the freedom to do good for all time, but from overwhelming necessity [must] act in a

completely evil manner in the future, as was clearly explained in the preceding. To believe that they had [free will] is most evil and foolish.

[19] *On the Thesis of Master William.* I have now no intention of overlooking the thesis of Master William," albeit he may seem to be wise in many matters. For I have heard him discussing ideas such as the following: that the angels were not made perfect by God from the beginning, because their God could not make them perfect. The reason for this is that God could not and cannot make anyone like Himself or coequal with Himself in any way; and although God himself may be called almighty by many, yet this He cannot do at all. And thus, in so much as they were inferior to God in beauty and greatness – that is to say, as they were not like Him or coequal with Him – these angels could be found wanting to the extent that they could covet His beauty and greatness. So, one reads of Lucifer in Isaiah: "I will exalt my throne above the stars. I will be like the Most High." And thus, such a one would perhaps say that on this account we cannot reasonably blame God for not making His angels so perfect that they could not have coveted His beauty and greatness at all, because their God could not do so, as is stated above.

I have decided to refute the doctrine just stated with the most cogent argument. For if we cannot reasonably blame God because He could not make his angels so perfect that they would not covet His beauty and greatness, for the reason that He could not make them like Himself or coequal with Himself, much less therefore can we blame those angels because they could by no means avoid coveting the beauty and greatness of God as a result of the character which they had from their maker; in other words, because He could not make them so perfect that they would not covet His beauty and greatness.

I say again: If God could not make His angels of such perfection that they would not so covet His beauty and greatness and thus would not, for this reason, become demons, neither could those angels avoid that evil in any way. And so, according to certain persons, it necessarily follows that all angels and indeed men who now are saved are bound always to covet that beauty and greatness and always to sin against their God by this covetousness, and of necessity to become demons because of it, just as they say befell the other angels. And this is true particularly because God could not nor cannot nor ever will be able to make anyone like Himself or coequal with Himself in any way.

And if Master William should say: They who were saved could not covet any more or sin, because they were enlightened and subtly warned by the punishment of the other angels, who became demons through their

covetousness, this may be answered as follows: God, who above was called good, holy, and just, would be the sole cause and principle of the punishment and ruin of all His angels. For He would have inflicted eternal punishment on His angels without reason or justice, in that He could not make them of such perfection that they would not covet His beauty and greatness, nor could those angels in any way avoid that evil, because they had been created at an earlier time than the other angels, who were enlightened by their punishment and fall. Indeed, those angels, who, as many say, became demons, could not be enlightened and warned by the punishment of other angels, because there were no other angels created before them. And so the aforesaid angels could with reason bring most very great complaint against their Lord for afflicting them with those countless punishments, the more so because He could not make them so perfect that they would not covet His beauty and greatness; therefore those angels could not by any means avoid that covetousness. Hence, it is utterly amazing that it can ever enter the mind of any wise man that God, who is good, holy, and just, should condemn His angels for all time, afflicting them with eternal torture, because He could not make them of such perfection that they would not envy His beauty and greatness, nor could they ever in any way receive that perfection from Him.

[20] *Concerning the Angels.* And if it be objected: Although God cannot make His angels like Himself or coequal with Himself, yet He could indeed have perfected them, had He so wished, to such a degree that they would never have envied His beauty. But He did not choose to do this, because they had free will from God, that is, the free capacity or the freedom to envy or not to envy His beauty and greatness, at their pleasure. Thus, there is no validity in what has been said above to the effect that God could not make His angels so perfect that they would not envy His beauty and greatness, because He could not make them like Himself or coequal with Himself in any way.

And thus it is obvious, if we accept the doctrine discussed above, that God did not choose to make His angels so perfect that they could not envy His beauty and greatness; but, knowingly and in full awareness, He made them of such imperfection that they could not in the least avoid covetousness, and He bestowed on them all the causes by which He knew those angels would fall in the future; and particularly [is it evident] in Him, who wholly knows all the future, in whom all causes by which those angels were to be covetous in the future were known from the beginning, by whom all things are done of necessity from eternity, as was made sufficiently clear above where free will was discussed. And so, to the wise, it is obvious, according to the above doctrine, that God cannot absolve

Himself on rational grounds, because He did not choose to avert that evil in any way, but knowingly and in full awareness created His angels of such imperfection that it was from eternity impossible in Him for them not to covet His beauty and greatness.

From this one may know that those angels did not have from God a free will by which they could entirely avoid covetousness, and especially not from a God who knows directly all the future, in whom it is impossible that that which is future, with all the causes which determine it, can fail to be in the future. And this is so particularly because, if there is only one First Principle, He is directly the cause of all causes. It follows therefore of necessity, according to the said doctrine, that God would be the first cause of all envy and indeed of all evil, as is written, "He who provides the occasion for harm should be held to have done the harm." One most certainly cannot believe this of the true God.

## **Part II. On Creation**

[1] *The Contention of Our Opponents That God Is the Creator or Maker of All Things.* Although our opponents have no argument based on truth, yet they may perchance still spurn the arguments set forth above and loudly assert: These words deserve no credence at all, for they represent the opinions of men and the argumentations of philosophers, of which the Apostle says to the Colossians, "Beware lest any man cheat you by philosophy and vain deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ." And so, perchance, they might say that one need give absolutely no credence to two principles, for the reasons advanced above because they were not at all confirmed by testimony of the Holy Scriptures and, in particular, because one cannot discover through biblical texts that there is any god other than the true Lord God, creator or maker of all, omnipotent, eternal or everlasting, ancient, without beginning or end.

To prove that the true Lord God is the creator or maker of all, they may perhaps vigorously fortify their argument by the following texts and others like them. It is written in the Apocalypse: "Thou art worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power, because Thou hast created all things, and for Thy will they were and have been created"; and again: "And the angel whom I saw standing upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, and he swore by Him that liveth forever and ever, who created heaven and the things which are therein, and the earth and the things which are in it, and the sea and the things

which are therein, that time shall be no longer." And the Apostle says to the Hebrews, "For every house is built by some man, but He that created all things is God." And Jesus the son of Sirach says: "He that liveth forever created all things together"; and [the Book of Wisdom says,] "For He created all things that they might be." And the apostles in their Acts say, "Lord, thou art He that didst make heaven and earth, the sea, and all things that are in them." And Paul, in the same book, says to the Athenians: "That I preach to you God, who made the world and all things therein, He, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is He served with men's hands as though He needed anything, seeing it is He who giveth to all life and breath and all things." And John in his Gospel says, "All things were made by Him, and without Him was made nothing that was made."

[2] *That God Is Called Father of All.* Not only is the Lord our God called the creator or the maker of all, but He is called the Father of all, as the Blessed Paul says to the Ephesians: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in us all." And again, "For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom all paternity in heaven and earth is named." And in the first Epistle to the Corinthians, the same Apostle says, "Yet to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things and we unto Him, and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things and we by Him." And he says to the Romans, "For of Him and by Him and in Him are all things." Also, all things were created in the Lord Jesus Christ, and by Him and in Him all things were created, as Paul says to the Colossians of Christ, "who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature; for in Him were all things created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominations, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him and in Him. And He is before all, and in Him all things consist."

Thus our opponents appear to confirm their doctrine many times over by these texts and others like them.

[3] *On the Omnipotence, the Eternity, and the Sempiternity of God.* Our opponents may indeed advance certain passages from Holy Scriptures to show that the aforesaid Lord our God is omnipotent and eternal or everlasting and ancient, insisting that there is no other power or domination but His, as David says: "For I have known that the Lord is great, and our God is above all gods. Whatsoever the Lord pleased he hath done, in heaven, in earth, in the sea, and in all the deeps." And the Apostle, in the first Epistle to Timothy, says, "I charge thee before God,



who quickeneth all things and before Christ Jesus, who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate, a good confession, that thou keep the commandment without spot, blameless, unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; which in His times He shall show, the King who is the Blessed and only Mighty, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords." And in the Apocalypse is written, "I give Thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty." And the Apostle says to the Romans, "For there is no power but from God, and those [powers] that are, are ordained of God."

Moreover, that the true Lord God is eternal, or everlasting and ancient, is shown by the following texts: David says, ". . . that ye may relate it in another generation. For this is God, our God unto eternity, and forever and ever. He shall rule us forevermore." And Isaiah says, "For thus saith the Lord High and Eminent that inhabiteth eternity." And the Apostle says to the Romans, "According to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret from eternity (which now is made manifest by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the precept of the eternal God).

Of the sempiternity of this true God Isaiah says, "The Lord is the everlasting God, who hath created the ends of the earth." And Jeremiah says, "But the Lord is the true God, He is the living God and the everlasting king."

Of the antiquity of the Lord, Daniel says: "I beheld therefore in the vision of the night, and lo, one like the son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and he came even to the Ancient of days"; and again, "Till the Ancient of days came."

Thus indeed they might say that, because of these texts quoted and others like them, one must firmly believe in one sole God, Lord and omnipotent Prince, who is eternal or everlasting, and ancient, as seems to be made manifest above.

[4] *A Reply to the Objections Raised Above.* It is my intent, with the aid of Jesus Christ, to resolve their objections in accordance with my concept. Now, in the first place, I wish to clarify by scriptural references the precise meaning of "creating" and "making," in connection with which our Lord God is called "creator" and "maker" of all; and secondly, I wish to show what is meant by "all" and other terms of universality in the Holy Scriptures.

I perceive the words "to create" or "to make" used throughout the Scriptures in three senses. Now, I say: It is "to create" or "to make" when the true Lord God adds to the essences of those beings who were already

exceedingly good something which ordains them to aid those who are to be saved. In this sense, our Lord Jesus Christ was ordained bishop by the true Lord God and "anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power," so that He could free all those "oppressed by the devil"; and in the same sense the angels and ministers of God the Father were made so that they might aid those who receive the inheritance of salvation. Sometimes the words "to create" or "to make" are used when God himself adds something to the essences of those who had become evil and disposes them to good works. I also call it "to create" or "to make" when something is permitted by God himself to him who is wholly evil, or to his minister, who cannot achieve what he desires unless the good Lord himself endures his deceit patiently for a time, to His own honor and to the shame of that most wicked enemy of His.

[5] *On the First Meaning of "Creating" or "Making."* As for the first meaning of "creating" or "making," I have sought to provide the clearest proof as it appears in passages from Holy Scripture: Thus the Blessed Paul, referring to the creation of our Lord Jesus Christ, says to the Colossians, "Lie not to one another; stripping [yourselves] of the old man with his deeds, and putting on the new, him who is renewed unto knowledge of God according to the image of Him that created him." And the same Apostle says to the Ephesians, "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, who according to God is created in justice and holiness of truth." And through Isaiah the Lord says: "Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just; let the earth be opened and bud forth a savior, and let justice spring up together; I the Lord have created him."

Of the "making" of the Lord Jesus Christ himself, moreover, the Blessed Peter says in the Acts of the Apostles, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know most certainly that God hath made both Lord and Christ, this same Jesus whom you have crucified." And Paul says to the Hebrews: "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly vocation, consider the apostle and high priest of our confession, Jesus, who is faithful to Him that made Him"; and again, "For to which of the angels hath He said at any time, 'Thou art my Son, today have I begotten Thee'?"

Moreover, in regard to the making of the good spirits and angels, "who were made by the true Lord God, the Blessed Apostle says to the Hebrews: "And to the angels indeed He saith, 'He that maketh his angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire' "; and again, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent to minister for them who shall receive the

inheritance of salvation?" And the Lord says through Isaiah, "Go, ye swift angels," and so on.

[6] *That "to Create" or "to Make" May Mean to Create or Make from Something, as from Some Pre-existent Matter.* From the foregoing, one must firmly believe that our Lord Jesus Christ and the other good angels of the true Father are not said to be "created" or "made" by the true Lord God in the sense that their essence originated only with this creation or production, nor [is it said] that their essence was constituted out of nothingness in the sense apparently asserted by our opponents, who believe that for God "to create" is to make something exclusively and essentially from nothing. Their opinion is most clearly refuted by the testimony of Holy Scriptures. For the angel of the Lord says to Joseph in the Gospel of Matthew, "Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." He did not say, "is created from nothing." And in the Book of Wisdom it is written, "For Thy almighty hand, which made the world of matter without form, was not unable," and so on. And in Genesis it is written, "And God formed man of the slime of the earth, and breathed into his face the breath of life; and man became a living soul." And Jesus the son of Sirach says: "The most High hath created medicines out of the earth"; and again, "God created man of the earth and made him after his own image."

And so it is clear that in the judgment of the wise, we may with most excellent reason reject the doctrine of our opponents by the testimony of the Scriptures.

[7] *On Creating and Making.* Therefore my exposition given above is true; to wit, that "to create" or "to make" means to add something to the essences of those who already were exceedingly good, as has been demonstrated with sufficient clarity in the foregoing. This is the way I construe its meaning. The good are said to be created and made by the true Lord God, that is, formed by Him for the salvation of sinners. It is in this sense that the Apostle speaks of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Hebrews: "What is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that Thou visiteth him?" "and so on; and "Thou hast set him over the works of thy hands." And David, in the character of Christ, as we believe, says, "But I am appointed king by Him over Zion His holy mountain." And so, according to this concept, this creation or production of the good is a noble one, of which, for instance, Ecclesiastes says: "He hath made all things good in their time"; and again, "I have learned that all the works which God hath made continue forever; we cannot add anything nor take away from those things which God hath made that He may be feared."

And Jesus the son of Sirach says, "All the works of the Lord are exceeding good." ° And in Ecclesiasticus is written, "O how desirable are all His works; all these things live and remain forever, and for every use all things obey Him." And David says: "How great are Thy works, O Lord? Thou hast made all things in wisdom"; and again, "By Thy ordinance the day goeth on, for all things serve Thee"; and again, "For He spoke and they were made, He commanded and they were created. He hath established them forever and for ages of ages."

And so it clearly seems that this noble creation and production of the good is established forever and for ages of ages by the true Lord God. But if one follows the doctrine of our opponents as I interpret it, this cannot be so, most particularly if all the heavens which now are, and the earth, and all the elements are to be completely destroyed by the heat of fire as, in their opinion as I interpret it, the Blessed Peter testified.

[8] *On the Second Meaning of "Creating" and "Making"*. I now intend to treat of the second meaning of "making" and "creating," of which I said above that "to create" and "to make" mean to add something to the essence of those who had been made evil which disposes them unto good works. ° For the Apostle says to the Ephesians, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus in good works, which God hath prepared that we should walk in them." And David says: "All expect of Thee that Thou give them food in season. What Thou givest to them, they shall gather up; when Thou openest Thy hand, they shall all be filled with good. But if Thou tumest away Thy face, they shall be troubled; Thou shalt take away their breath, and they shall fail and shall return to their dust. Thou shalt send forth Thy spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth."

[9] *Explanation of the Text of Isaiah "I Am the Lord, and There Is None Else."* The Lord says through Isaiah: "I am the Lord and there is none else. I form the light and create darkness; I make peace and create evil, I the Lord that do all these things." This text can be interpreted as though its meaning were: There is no Lord but I who "form the light" – which is Christ, who is the "true light, which enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world," as the Blessed John says in his Gospel. And I who "create darkness" – which means to ordain the Gentile people to good works, as was set forth above; they who were become part of darkness, walking in darkness, as one reads in the Gospel, "The people of the Gentiles that walked in darkness hath seen great light." And the Apostle says to the Ephesians: "For you were heretofore darkness, but now light in the Lord. Walk then as children of the light." "I make peace" – that is, Christ, who

was our peace, as the Apostle says of Him to the Ephesians, "For He is our peace who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition"; or [Christ], who made peace between the people of the Gentiles and the people of Israel, as is contained in the same Epistle: "[That He might make the two in himself] into one new man, making peace, and might reconcile both to God in one body. And coming, He preached peace to you that were afar off and peace to them that were nigh; for by Him we have access both in one Spirit to the Father." And I "create evil"—that is, I appoint the people of Israel, who had become evil, unto good works, as Christ says of them in the Gospel of Matthew, "you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" It is in this sense that the Lord is said to create darkness and evil. But this is not possible, according to the opinion of our opponents, who believe that "to create" is to make something from nothing. And their opinion is most clearly disproved. For surely, if the true Lord God exclusively and essentially created darkness and evil, undoubtedly He would be the cause and beginning of all evil, which is an utterly vain and wicked conclusion.

[10] *On the Making of Those Who Had Become Evil.* Moreover Paul says to the Corinthians in his second Epistle, in regard to the making of those who had become evil, "But our sufficiency is from God, who also hath made us fit ministers of the new testament, not in the letter but in the spirit; for the letter killeth, but the spirit quickeneth." And again, the same Apostle says to the Colossians, "Giving thanks to God the Father, who hath made us worthy to be partakers of the lot of the saints in the light of truth." And he says to the Corinthians, "If, then, any be in Christ a new creature, the old things are passed away; behold all things are made new." Also, of this making, as is believed, the Blessed John says in the Apocalypse, "And He that sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'" Now, according to this interpretation, our Lord God is called "creator" or "maker" for constituting sinners unto good works, as is clearly enough explained in the foregoing.

[11] *On the Third Meaning of "Creating" and "Making."* In regard going to the third meaning of "creating" and "making"—about which I remarked above that one says "to create" or "to make" when something is permitted by the true Lord God to the one who is wholly evil or to his minister, who cannot accomplish his desires unless the good Lord himself suffers the deceit patiently for a time, to His own honor and to the shame of His most wicked enemy—I intend to confirm my interpretation by biblical proofs. For the prophet Ezechiel says of the Assyrian king, who represents the

devil: "The cedars in the paradise of God were not higher than he, the fir trees did not equal his top, neither were the plane trees to be compared with him for branches; no tree in the paradise of God was like him in his beauty. For He made him beautiful and thick set with many branches, and all the trees of pleasure that were in the paradise of God envied him." And the Lord says through Isaiah: "I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire and bringeth forth an instrument for his work. And I have created the killer to destroy"; and again, "I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light and create darkness; I make peace and create evil, I the Lord that do all these things." And David says, "This sea dragon which thou hast formed to play therein." And in the Book of Job the Lord says to him, "Behold behemoth, whom I made with thee; he eateth grass like an ox." Now, if the Assyrian, the smith, the killer, the darkness, the evil, the dragon, and the behemoth signify him who is the chief principle of all evil, one must necessarily interpret the words, "to create" darkness and evil and the killer, and so on, to mean that God endures from one who is His most wicked enemy deceit and malice against His people for a time, in order to permit them to be trampled underfoot for their sins. So our Lord God is said "to make" the evil which, for our sins, He does not forbid, just as Isaiah says, "But he that is the wise one hath brought evil, and hath not removed his words." And through Jeremiah, the Lord again says, "For I bring evil from the north and great destruction." And through Habakkuk the Lord also says, "For I will raise up the Chaldeans, a bitter and swift nation, marching upon the breadth of the earth to possess the dwelling places that are not their own." And the Lord says through Amos: "Shall the trumpet sound in a city and the people not be afraid? Shall there be evil in a city which the Lord hath not done?" And the Blessed Job says, "The tabernacles of robbers abound, and they provoke God boldly, whereas it is He that hath given all into their hands." And the prophet Daniel says of the king of Babylon: "Thou art a king of kings, and the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, and strength, and power, and glory, and all places wherein the children of men and the beasts of the field do dwell; He hath also given the birds of the air into thy hand and hath put all things under thy power." All this must be understood as occurring by the sufferance of the Lord, because of the sins of the people, as Elihu says in the Book of Job: "And upon nations and over all men He maketh a man that is a hypocrite to reign for the sins of the people"--that is, endures his reign because of the sins of the people. In this wise the Apostle says to the Romans, "What if God, willing to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath fitted for destruction, that He might show the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy." This does not mean, however, that to do evil may be a function directly and essentially of the true Lord God, for were that the

case—if there were no evil which the true Lord God had not directly and essentially done—the true Lord God would be fundamentally the cause and beginning of all evil, which is an utterly vain and foolish belief.

Whence, in accordance with our interpretation, we can most intelligibly conclude that God "created" darkness, evil, and murder; "made" the Assyrian; and "formed" the dragon and the many other baneful things noted in the Holy Scriptures; that is to say, He suffers them to prevail over His people for their sins, and in consonance with this, evils are said to be "done" by Him—that is, He gives sufferance for a time to malice directed against His own. And in this sense we can freely concede that Satan was "created" or "made" by the true Lord God—that is, after he was given license to afflict Job—for by permission which he obtained from the true Lord God he did that which he was unable to achieve by himself. And so he can be said to be "made" by God—that is, he was acknowledged as ruler over the people, not absolutely but, so to speak, indirectly and nonessentially.

And Satan is allowed not only to rule over sinners but also to tempt the just, as is written in the Gospel of the Blessed Matthew about our Lord Jesus Christ, "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil." And the Blessed Mary says: "And immediately the Spirit drove Him out into the desert. And He was in the desert forty days and forty nights and was tempted by Satan." And the faithful Luke says: "And Jesus, being full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for the space of forty days, and was tempted by the devil"; and again, "And the temptation being ended, the devil departed from Him for a time." And the same thing may be noted in regard to the Blessed Job, as the Lord himself says to Satan, "Behold, all that he hath is in thy hand." And in particular reference to Job the Lord again says, "Behold, he is hath shut me up with the unjust man and hath delivered me into the hands of the wicked"; and again, "Doth it seem good to Thee that Thou shouldst calumniate me and oppress me, the work of Thy own hands, and help the counsel of the wicked?" And in the Gospel of John, Christ says to Pilate, Satan's minister, "Thou shouldst not have any power against me unless it were given thee from above"; which is to say, conceded to you, and this may be interpreted as meaning from God. And in this way our Lord God is said "to create" evil when for some reasonable cause He does not prohibit it. Of this one finds clear confirmation in the case of the Blessed Job where in the Book of Tobias one reads of Tobias: "Now this trial the Lord therefore permitted to happen to him, that an example might be given to posterity of his

patience, as also of holy Job." And the Blessed James says, "You have heard of the patience of Job, and you have seen the end of the Lord."

That the aforesaid texts, moreover, properly should be so interpreted, even according to the concept of those who believe that "to create" means to make something from nothing, is proved as follows: The Apostle says to Timothy, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be rejected." And Ecclesiastes says, "He hath made all things good in their time." And it is written in the Book of Wisdom, "For so much then as Thou art just, Thou orderest all things justly." Therefore, if God made and created and justly ordered all things good, He did not create the darkness or evil, nor did He form the dragon. Nor are even our opponents wont to believe that God had formed the devil as a dragon, but rather as a beautiful angel, nor that He had created angels as demons and things of darkness, but rather as angels shining and luminous.

[12] *That God Did Not Create Darkness or Evil.* Whence, one should give no credence at all to the belief that the true Lord God absolutely and directly created darkness or evil, especially from nothing, which our opponents think is the proper meaning of "to create." And most particularly this is so because the Blessed John can say in the first Epistle: "That God is light and in him there is no darkness," nor, consequently, [darkness] through Him. Therefore, darkness does not fall within that all-inclusive term which the Apostle employs in his Epistle to the Romans: "For of Him and by Him and in Him are all things," nor yet within that used by the same Apostle with reference to Christ in his Epistle to the Colossians, "For in Him were all things created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominations, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and in Him. And He is before all, and in Him all things consist." Wherefore Christ says of Himself, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me walketh not in darkness, but shall have the light of life." So, darkness is not created absolutely and directly by our Lord God and His Son Jesus Christ but only in an indirect and relative sense, which was shown clearly enough above; albeit, in keeping with our thesis, the aforesaid texts can be otherwise interpreted, as is seen in some part to have been done in the foregoing. Hence, by using the three senses [of "creation"] discussed above and the various meanings which are assigned in Holy Scriptures to "all" and other terms of universality, the texts quoted above can be given their correct interpretation in accordance with our belief. That is, the Lord our God created and made all things, namely, heaven and earth, the sea, and all things which are therein; He made all things in heaven and earth through



our Lord Jesus Christ; and all things were created by Him, in Him, and of Him, as has already been demonstrated by many texts.

### **Part III. On the Terms of Universality**

[1] *A Rebuttal: Good and Evil Are Not Denoted by "All" and Other Terms of Universality* I have resolved to discuss a subject on which our opponents have often vaunted themselves over us, in that they frequently seek to confirm their doctrine by those terms of universality such as "all" (*omnia*), "all things whatsoever" (*universa*), and "all things" (*cuncta*), and other terms which in biblical texts denote the total number of things. They make no distinction at all among substances and insist, moreover, that all substances whatsoever, the evil as well as the good, the transitory as well as the permanent, have been made and created without exception by the just, true, and holy Lord God. With the aid of the true Father I have determined to rebut their doctrine by the testimony of the Scriptures and the soundest of arguments.

[2] *On the Terms of Universality.* It should, then, be understood that the terms of universality mentioned above, although they may be so called by grammarians, cannot be categorically so designated by men of real wisdom, to wit, that under any term of universality all substances 59. *Book of Two Principles (Part III)* 545

and actions whatsoever may be neatly comprehended, and indeed even all accidents. Whence, it is obvious that, among the learned, these terms are called universals according to the construction placed upon them in the minds of those using them, but not at all because all things both good and evil may be absolutely and finally summed up under any given term of universality. And this is particularly true inasmuch as good and evil do not harmonize, nor can one come from the other, since they mutually destroy one another and battle in active and continuous opposition.

Because of this, one should realize that the aforesaid terms of universality are used in scriptural texts with several meanings. Now, there are some such terms which refer to those things which are good, clean, made in wisdom, and highly desirable, which persist forever and which obey our Lord God in every use, as is clearly revealed in the Holy Scriptures. On the other hand, there are other terms of universality, which designate those things that are evil, vain, and transitory, and that ought to be cast aside, to be counted but as dung by the faithful of Jesus Christ, that they may gain our Lord Jesus Christ. There are still other terms of universality,

which, as one reads, relate to those who, once established under the power of the king of Babylon, were to have been given into the hands of robbers, and were rather to have been laid waste by "a king of a shameless face." These terms also, we believe, were "concluded under [i.e. confined under the power of] sin, that the promise, by the faith of Jesus Christ, might be given to them that believe." They were also confined in unbelief by the true Lord God "that he may have mercy on all" of them. Now, these terms of universality represent those who are to be reconciled, restored, renewed, re-established, fulfilled, and quickened by our Lord God, and by His Son Jesus Christ, as is manifestly dwelt upon by the Scriptures.

[3] *On the Terms of Universality Referring to the Good.* I wish to expound the soundest interpretation of those terms of universality which I characterized above as referring to what is good, clean, made in wisdom, and the like, using the evidence of Holy Scriptures. For the Apostle says in the first Epistle to Timothy, "For every creature of God is good and nothing to be rejected." And Ecclesiastes says, "He hath made all things good in their time"; and again, "I have learned that all the works which God hath made, continue forever; we cannot add anything, nor take away from those things which God hath made that He may be feared." And it is written in Ecclesiasticus: "O how desirable are all His works! All these things live and remain forever, and for every use all things obey Him." And David says: "How great are Thy works, O Lord? Thou hast made all things in wisdom"; and again, "By Thy ordinance the day goeth on, for all things serve thee." And the Apostle says to the Romans: "All things indeed are clean"; and again, "All things are clean to the clean"; and again, "And we know that to them that love God all things work together unto good," and so on.

In this way it is clearly proved by scriptural evidence that the aforesaid terms of universality designate those things which are most excellent and clean, and which persist forever. Hence, among wise men, it seems impossible that the good and the evil, the transitory and the permanent, can be wholly summed up absolutely and directly under these terms of universality, as these wise men can very clearly discover.

[4] *On the Universal Symbols Which Refer to the Evil.* The discussion now turns to the question of those terms of universality which I characterized above as designating those things which are evil, vain, transitory, and which are to be cast aside, and so on. For Ecclesiastes says: "Vanity of vanities and all is vanity"; and again, "I have seen all things that are done under the sun and behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit." And again:

"All things have their season and in their times all things pass under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die." And again: "All things are subject to vanity. And all things go to one place; of earth they were made and into earth they return together." And again, "And therefore I was weary of my life, when I saw that all things under the sun are evil; and all vanity and vexation of spirit." And the Apostle says to the Colossians: "If then you be dead with Christ from the elements of this world, why do you yet decree as though living in the world? Touch not, taste not, handle not, which are all unto destruction by the very use." And to the Philippians the same Apostle says: "If any other thinketh he may have confidence in the flesh, I more; being circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; according to the Law, a Pharisee; according to zeal, persecuting the church of God; according to the justice that is in the Law, conversing without blame. But the things that were gain to me, the same I have counted loss for Christ. Furthermore I count all things to be but loss for the excellent knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them but as dung, that I may gain Christ." And in the Gospel of the Blessed Matthew, Christ says to the scribe, "If thou wilt be perfect, go, sell what thou hast"; that is, put away all your material possessions in accordance with the Law. Thence there follows: "Then Peter answering, said to him: 'Behold, we have left all things and have followed Thee; what therefore shall we have?' " In answer, He said, "You have left all things and followed me," and so forth. And the Apostle says to the Colossians, "But now put you also all away: anger, detraction, indignation, malice, blasphemy." And the Blessed John says in his first Epistle: "Love not the world nor the things which are in the world. If any man love the world, the charity of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world is the concupiscence of the flesh and the concupiscence of the eyes and the pride of life, which is not of the Father but is of the world," and so on.

Thus, it should be clearly realized that these universal symbols which refer to what is evil, vain, and transitory are not of the same sort as those other universal symbols already mentioned, which designate the good, clean, and highly desirable, and which persist forever. And this is particularly true because they cannot be in harmony nor exist together under any form of universality, because they mutually destroy and oppose one another. Nor is it possible that they can derive entirely from the same cause.

[5] *On Those Terms of Universality Designating Those Who for Their Sins Were Established in the Power of the King of Babylon.* I now propose to clarify the matter of those terms of universality which were once established under

the power of the king of Babylon, which were to have been given into the hands of robbers, and were rather to have been laid waste by "a king of a shameless face." These terms, also, we believe, apply to all that are to be reconciled, re-established, fulfilled, and quickened by the true Lord God and by His Son Jesus Christ, as is clearly set forth in the Scriptures. For the prophet Daniel says to Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king: "Thou art a king of kings, and the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, and strength, and power, and glory, and all places wherein the children of men and the beasts of the field do dwell; He hath also given the birds of the air into thy hand and hath put all things under thy power." And again: "And after their reign, when iniquities shall be grown up, there shall arise a king of a shameless face and understanding dark sentences. And his power shall be strengthened but not by his own force, and he shall lay all things waste and shall prosper and do more than can be believed. And he shall destroy the mighty, and the people of the saints, according to his will. And craft shall be successful in his hand, and his heart shall be puffed up. And in the abundance of all things he shall kill many; and he shall rise up against the prince of princes." And Job says, "The tabernacles of robbers abound, and they provoke God boldly, whereas it is he that hath given all into their hands." All this you must interpret as caused by the sins of the people, as the already quoted Daniel, referring to the "little horn," says, "And strength was given him against the continual sacrifice, because of sins; and truth shall be cast down on the ground." And Elihu in the Book of Job says, "And upon nations and over all men He maketh a man that is a hypocrite to reign for the sins of the people." And it was in this way that those who are represented by the aforesaid terms of universality, because of their sins, were once, we believe, put under the power of sin and also of unbelief, given into the hands of robbers, and established under the power of the king of Babylon, so that in the last times God may have mercy on all of those who forsake their wickedness. For the Apostle says to the Galatians, "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by the faith of Jesus Christ might be given unto them that believe." And the same Apostle says to the Romans, "For God hath concluded all in unbelief, that He may have mercy on us all."

[6] *On the Mercy of the Lord Our God.* So the Lord our God "for His exceeding charity wherewith He loved us" has had mercy upon us, as the Apostle writes to the Ephesians: "Even when we were dead in sins, [God] hath quickeneth us together in Christ"; and as the same Apostle says to Titus: "Not by the works which we have done but according to His great mercy He saved us, by the laver of regeneration and renovation of the Holy Spirit, whom He hath poured forth upon us abundantly through

Jesus Christ our Savior, that, being justified by His grace, we may be heirs according to hope of life everlasting." Whence it is written in the Book of Wisdom: "But Thou, our God, art gracious and true, patient, and ordering all things in mercy." And again: "But Thou hast mercy upon all because Thou canst do all things and overlookest the sins of men for the sake of repentance. For Thou lovest all things that are and hatest none of the things which Thou hast made, for Thou didst not appoint or make anything hating it. And how could anything endure if Thou wouldst not? or be preserved if not called by Thee? But Thou sparest all because they are Thine, O Lord, who lovest souls." And again: "For it was neither herb nor mollifying plaster that healed them, but Thy word, O Lord, which healeth all things." And David says: "All expect of Thee that Thou give them food in season. What Thou givest to them they shall gather up, when Thou openest Thy hand they shall all be fulfilled with good." And Christ says in the Gospel of John, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself." Thus, it is clearly discovered through statements of the Scripture that God wishes to have mercy upon all His creatures.

[7] *On the Reconciliation of Those Represented by Terms of Universality.* It can be clearly found through evidence of Scripture that those to whom the aforesaid terms of universality refer are to be reconciled, restored, re-established, fulfilled, and quickened by the Lord our God and by His Son Jesus Christ. For the Apostle says of our Lord Jesus Christ in his Epistle to the Colossians: "Because in Him it hath well pleased the Father that all fullness of divinity should dwell, and through Him to reconcile all things unto himself, making peace through the blood of His cross, both as to the things that are on earth and the things that are in heaven." And in the Gospel of Matthew, Christ says, "Elijah indeed shall come and restore all things." And the Apostle says to the Ephesians: "That He might make known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Him in the dispensation of the fullness of times, to reestablish all things in Christ that are in heaven and on earth in Him." And it is written in the Apocalypse, "And He that sat on the throne, said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'" And it is of Christ, we believe, that the Apostle says to the Ephesians, "He that descended is the same also that ascended above all the heavens, that He might fill all things." 50 And in his first Epistle to Timothy, the same Apostle says, "I charge thee before God, who quickeneth all things." It is revealed, moreover, that what is represented by the term "all" has been subjected under the feet of Jesus Christ by the true Lord God, as David says and the Apostle points out to the Hebrews: "He has subjected all things under His feet." For in that He

hath subjected all things to Him, He left nothing not subject to Him. But now we see not as yet all things subject to Him."

And again, the same Apostle says in the first Epistle to the Corinthians: "For He hath put all things under His feet.' And whereas he saith, 'All things are put under Him'; undoubtedly, He is excepted who put all things under Him. And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then the Son also himself shall be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."

[8] *That All Good and Evil Whatsoever Come Not from One and the Same Cause.* To wise men, therefore, it is obvious that the good and the evil, the clean and the polluted, the transitory and the permanent, are not summed up under these terms of universality, to wit, "all," "all things whatsoever," and "all things," and others which are found in Holy Scriptures, most particularly because they are complete opposites and contraries. Nor could they all arise entirely from one cause alone. For Jesus son of Sirach says: "Good is set against evil, and life against death, so also is the sinner against a just man. And so look upon all the works of the Most High." And Paul says in the second Epistle to the Corinthians: "For what participation hath justice with injustice? Or what fellowship hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath the faithful with the unbeliever? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" It is as if he were saying: Justice has absolutely no harmony with injustice, nor light with darkness, nor is there concord between Christ and Belial; which should be understood to mean that these opposites and contraries may not arise from one and the same cause. If it were otherwise — if justice and injustice, light and darkness, Christ and Belial, the faithful and the unbeliever, came absolutely and directly from the Highest Cause of all good — they would be in partnership and in concord, and would not destroy one another in the way that good and evil obviously do every day. For it was clearly pointed out above that, "Good is set against evil, and life against death," and so on.

Hence, it follows that there is another principle, one of evil, who is the source and cause of all wickedness, foulness, and unbelief, as also of all darkness. For otherwise, the true God himself, who is most faithful, and the height of justice, the essence of purity, would be entirely the cause and origin of all evil. All opposites and contraries would emanate entirely from the Lord himself. To suppose this is a most foolish fancy.

#### **Part IV. A Compendium for the Instruction of Beginners**

[1] *On the Creation of Heaven, the Earth, and the Sea.* I have resolved, further, to treat in brief form for the instruction of beginners the subject of the creation of heaven, the earth, and the sea, of which something has already been said. Now, I say that sometimes in the Holy Scriptures the terms "heavens" and "earth" refer not to the permutable and unreasoning elements of this world only, but to intelligent creatures of the true God, those which have comprehension and understanding. For David says: "The heavens show forth the glory of God, and the firmament declareth the work of his hands." And again, "Hear, O ye heavens, the things I speak; let the earth give ear to the words of my mouth." And Isaiah says, "Hear, O ye heavens, and give ear, O earth, for the Lord hath spoken." And Jeremiah says: "O earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord." And David, "Thy way is in the sea and Thy paths in many waters." It is to these paths, I believe, that David also refers in the passage "All the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth."

Thus, by the terms "heaven," "earth," and "sea" a spiritual existence is implied, as the Blessed John says in the Apocalypse: "And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard all saying, 'To Him that sitteth on the throne and to the Lamb, benediction and honor and glory and power, forever and ever.' " Thus, David says: "I believe. to see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living"; and again, "Thy good spirit shall lead me into the right land." And David says, "But the just shall inherit the land and shall dwell therein forevermore." And Christ commanded "not to swear by heaven, for it is the throne of God," of which, indeed, David says, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever"--"nor by earth, for it is His footstool," the Lord added. It is of this footstool that David is believed to have written, "Fear ye the Lord our God, and adore His footstool, for it is holy." "

I grant that the Lord our God is the creator and maker of this creation, but not of the "weak and needy elements" of this world, to which the Apostle, for example, refers in saying to the Galatians, "How turn you again to the weak and needy elements, which you desire to serve again?" And to the Colossians the same Apostle says: "If then you be dead with Christ from the elements of this world, why do you yet decree as though living in the world? Touch not, taste not, handle not, which are all unto destruction by the very use." Therefore, it can by no means be conceded that the Lord our God is creator or maker of death, or of those things which are wholly in death, as is written in the Book of Wisdom, "For God made not death, neither hath He pleasure in the destruction of the living." So undoubtedly there is another creator or maker, who is the source and cause of death

and perdition, as of all evil, just as we pointed out with sufficient clarity above.

[2] *On the Omnipotence of the True Lord God.* Now it is my intention to discuss the omnipotence of the true Lord God, a subject on which our opponents have often vaunted themselves over us, saying that there is no power or potency other than His.

Although the true Lord God may be called almighty by the testimony of Holy Scriptures, it is, however, not to be believed that He ought to be called omnipotent in the sense that He can and does do all evils, since there are many evil things which the true God cannot and never will be able to do. For the Apostle says to the Hebrews, "It is impossible for God to lie." And in the second Epistle to Timothy, the same Apostle says, "If we believe not, He continueth faithful, He cannot deny himself." Nor should one believe that the good God can utterly destroy himself or, contrary to all reason and justice, do absolutely all evil things, this especially because He is not the absolute cause of that evil.

But our opponents may rejoin: On the contrary, we can indeed assert that the true Lord God is almighty, in that He can and does do all good things, and also in that He can do all evil things; he can even lie and destroy Himself if He wishes, but He does not choose to do so.

[3] *That God Cannot Be the Author of Evil.* The reply is obvious. For if God does not desire all evil things, nor to lie, nor to destroy Himself, there is no doubt that He cannot do so, because that which God most certainly does not desire He cannot do, and what He absolutely cannot do He does not desire. From this it is clear that in the true Lord God there exists no potency for sinning or for doing all evil things. The argument for this is as follows: Since anything predicated of God is indeed God himself, especially because, in the view of wise men. He is not composite nor are there in Him any accidents; it thus follows that God himself and His will are one and the same thing. Therefore the good God cannot lie or be the author of all evils unless He so desires, because what He himself does not desire the true God cannot do, for He and His will are one and the same, as was said above.

[4] *That God Cannot Make Another God.* Now, with reason and without fear I can say further that the true God himself, with all His powers, could not, cannot, and never will be able in any manner, either intentionally or unintentionally, to make another god and lord and creator, like and coequal unto himself in all things. This I prove.



I say, indeed, that it is impossible for the good God to make another god like unto himself in all things, that is to say, eternal and everlasting, creator and maker of all things that are good, with neither beginning nor end, one who was never made, created, or born of anyone in the sense that the good God was not made, created, or born of anyone. Yet in Holy Scriptures the true Lord God is not called impotent, because of this. Hence it must firmly be believed that the reason the good God is called omnipotent is not that He can make, has made, or shall make all the evils which are, were, and shall be made hereafter, but because He is omnipotent over all things which were, are, and shall be good; and this particularly because He is wholly the cause and origin of all good, but is in no way, of himself exclusively and essentially, the cause of any evil. It follows, therefore, that among wise men the true God is called omnipotent in respect of all things that He has done, does, and shall do in the future; but among those who understand correctly He is not called omnipotent in the sense that He can do what He has not done, does not do, and never will do. And if our opponents say that He has no desire to do so, the argument carries no weight against me, because He and His will are one and the same, as was demonstrated above.

[5] *That God Is Not Mighty in Evil, but That There Is Another and Evil Potency.* Therefore, it is firmly to be believed that because there exists in God no potency for evil by which He might bring evil things into existence, there is another principle, one of evil, who is potent in evil. From that one flow all evils which were, are, and shall be." It is evidently of him that David says: "Why doest thou glory in malice, thou that art mighty in iniquity? All the day long thy tongue hath devised Injustice; as a sharp razor thou hast wrought deceit. Thou hast loved malice more than goodness, and iniquity rather than to speak righteousness." And the Blessed John says in the Apocalypse, "And that great dragon was cast out, that old serpent who is called the devil and Satan, who seduceth the whole world." And Christ says in the Gospel of Luke: "The seed is the word of God. And they by the wayside are they that hear; then the devil cometh and taketh the word out of their heart, lest believing they should be saved." And the prophet Daniel says: "I beheld, and lo, that horn made war against the saints and prevailed over them, till the Ancient of Days came and gave judgment to the saints of the Most High," and so on. And again: "And another shall rise up after them; and he shall be mightier than the former, and he shall bring down three kings. And he shall speak words against the High One, and shall crush the saints of the Most High, and he shall think himself able to change times and laws." And again: "And it [the little horn] became great against the south, and against the east, and against the strength. And it was magnified even unto the

strength of heaven; and it threw down of the strength, and of the stars, and trod upon them. And it was magnified even to the prince of the strength; and it took away from him the continual sacrifice, and cast down the place of his sanctuary." And the Blessed John says in the Apocalypse: "And there was seen another sign in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads, and ten horns, and on his head seven diadems, and his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth." And again: "And power was given to him to do two and forty months; and he opened his mouth unto blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name and his tabernacle and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them." So, in the view of wise men, it is deemed wholly impossible that from the true Lord God derive absolutely and directly this mighty one and his potency or power, he who daily works in the most evil fashion against God and His creation, against whom the Lord our God seeks mightily to contend. This the true God could not do if that one, in all his characteristics, were entirely from Him, as most of our opponents declare.

[6] *On the Destruction of the One Mighty in Iniquity.* It is most clearly found in the Holy Scriptures, moreover, that the true Lord God is about to destroy, together with all his powers," this mighty one who daily strives against God and His creation. For David says of him who is mighty in iniquity: "Therefore will God destroy thee forever; he will pluck thee out and remove thee from thy dwelling place, and thy root out of the land of the living." And David, invoking his God against this mighty one, as we believe, says: "Break thou the arm of the and of the malignant; his sin shall be sought and shall not be found. The Lord shall reign to eternity, yea, forever and ever." And again, "For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be; and thou shalt seek his place and shalt not find it." And in the Proverbs of Solomon is written, "The wicked man shall be driven out in his wickedness." And the Apostle, referring to the destruction of this mighty one by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, says in the Epistle to the Hebrews, "That, through death, he might destroy him who had the empire of death, that is to say, the devil." And so, the Lord our God not only seeks to destroy this mighty one but also all the powers and dominations which sometimes seem through this mighty one to rule over the creatures of the good Lord when they are subjected to this evil dominion So speaks the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Gospel according to Luke, "He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble." And the Apostle says in the first Epistle to the Corinthians, "Afterward the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God and the Father, when he shall have brought to nought all principality, and

power, and virtue, and domination and the enemy of all, death, shall be destroyed last." " And the same Apostle says to the Colossians: "Giving thanks to God the Father, who hath made us worthy to be partakers of the lot of the saints in light of truth, who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love." And again: "And you, when you were dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He hath quickened together with Him, forgiving you all offenses, blotting out the handwriting of the decree that was against us, which was contrary to us. And he hath taken the same out of the way, fastening it to the Cross; and despoiling the principalities and powers, he hath exposed them confidently in open show, triumphing over them in himself."

Thus the Blessed Paul was sent by the Lord Jesus Christ to despoil the power referred to, as is written of him in the Acts of the Apostles: "For to this end have I appeared to thee, that I may make thee a minister and a witness of those things which thou hast seen and of those things wherein I will appear to thee, delivering thee from the people and from the nations, unto which now I send thee, to open their eyes that they may be converted from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a lot among the saints by the faith that is in me." And Christ, In the Gospel of the Blessed Matthew, says: "You are come out as it were to a robber, with swords and clubs to apprehend me. I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you laid not hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness." " Whence one must firmly believe, that the power of Satan and of darkness cannot be absolutely and directly from the true Lord God. Otherwise, if, as the unlearned say, the power of Satan and of darkness in all its manifestations were absolutely and directly from the true Lord God, along with other powers, and all virtues and dominations, Paul and the other faithful of Jesus Christ could in no way have been snatched from the power of darkness. And also there would have been no way by which anyone could have been converted from the power of Satan to the true Lord God. This is particularly true because, if all powers, virtues, and dominations were derived exclusively and essentially from the good God, anyone who is extricated from the power of Satan and of darkness would be released from the exclusive and essential power of the true Lord God himself. Nor could the Lord himself despoil and bring to nought any power other than His own, if no other power whatsoever is to be found, as say all the opponents of those true Christians who are rightly known by the name of Albanenses."

[7] *On the Evil Principle.* For this reason, in the opinion of the wise it is firmly to be believed that there is another principle, one of evil, who is mighty in iniquity, from whom the power of Satan and of darkness and all other powers which are inimical to the true Lord God are exclusively and essentially derived, as was demonstrated above and will appear below, God willing. Otherwise, it would seem obvious to these same [wise] persons that this Divine Might struggles, destroys, and wars against itself. For the Apostle says to the Ephesians: "Finally, brethren, be strengthened in the Lord and in the might of His power. Put you on the armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the deceits of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places. Therefore take unto you the armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and to stand in all things perfect," and so on; "in all things taking the shield of faith, wherewith you may be able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the most wicked one." Thus, the virtues and the powers of the true Lord God by His will would daily be in opposition to one another, were there no other might but His. It is utter foolishness to believe this of the true God. Therefore, it follows indubitably that there is a might or power other than the true one, which the true Lord God daily seeks to assail, as was most clearly demonstrated to the wise " in the foregoing.

[8] *On the Strange God and Many Gods.* Now, if anyone should be so foolish as to spurn the most valid arguments set forth above, let him fully realize that through the evidence of the Holy Scriptures it may clearly be learned that there is another god, a lord and prince other than the true Lord God. For the Lord says through Jeremiah, " "As you have forsaken me and served a strange god in your own land, so shall you serve strange gods in a land that is not your own." And [through Isaiah], "Assemble yourselves and come, and draw near together, ye that are saved of the Gentiles! They have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven work, and pray to a god that cannot save." And again, "O Lord our God, other lords besides thee have had dominion over us, only in Thee let us remember Thy name." And David says: "Hear, O my people, and I will testify to thee! O Israel, if thou wilt hearken to me! there shall be no new god in thee; neither shalt thou adore a strange god." And again, "If we have forgotten the name of our God, and if we have spread forth our hands to a strange god, shall not God search out these things?" And again: "The princes of the people are gathered together with the God of Abraham; for the strong gods of the earth are exceedingly exalted." And again, "For all the gods of the Gentiles are devils." And Zephaniah says, "The Lord shall be terrible upon them and shall consume all the gods of

the earth." And Jeremiah says: "A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem so these likewise have gone after strange gods, to serve them and adore them." And again: "Because your fathers forsook me and went after strange gods and served them and adored them, and they forsook me and kept not my law; and you also have done worse than your fathers, for behold, every one of you walketh after the perverseness of his evil heart, so as not to hearken to me. So I will cast you forth out of this land into a land which you know not, nor your fathers; and there you shall serve strange gods day and night, which shall not give you any rest." And Malachi says: "Judah hath transgressed, and abomination hath been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the Lord, which He loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god." And Micah says: "For all people will walk away every one in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever." And the Apostle says in the second Epistle to the Corinthians: "And if our gospel be also hid, it is hid to them that are lost, in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of unbelievers, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not shine unto them." 1 And the same Apostle says in the first Epistle to the Corinthians: "For although there be that are called gods, either in heaven or on earth (for there be gods many, and lords many), yet to us there is but one God." And Christ says in the Gospel of Matthew: "No man can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will sustain the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." And again, in the Gospel of John, Christ says: "For the prince of this world cometh and in me he hath not anything"; and again, "Now is the judgment of the world, now shall the prince of this world be cast out"; and again, "Because the prince of this world is already judged." And the apostles say in their Acts: "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the people meditate vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the princes assembled together against the Lord and his Christ.' For of a truth there assembled together in this city against Thy holy child Jesus, whom Thou hast anointed, Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel," and so on. So it is clearly seen that through the evidence of the Holy Scriptures many gods, lords, and princes in enmity to the true Lord God and His son Jesus Christ can manifestly be discovered, as has just been plainly set forth.

[9] *That an Evil Eternity May Also Be Discerned.* That for these gods an eternity, a sempiternity, and an antiquity may be discerned different and distinct from that of the true Lord God we can clearly prove through the Scriptures. Christ says in the Gospel of Matthew, "Then shall the king say to them that shall be on his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into

everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels.' " And the Blessed Jude [brother of] James: "And the angels who kept not their principality but forsook their own habitation He hath reserved under darkness in everlasting chains unto the judgment of the great day"; and again, "As Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighboring cities in like manner, having given themselves to fornication and going after other flesh, were made an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire." And the Blessed Job says, "Where the shadow of death, and no order, but everlasting horror dwelleth." And through Ezechiel, the Lord says of Mount Seir: "I will make thee everlasting desolations"; and again, "Behold, I come against thee, Mount Seir, and I will stretch forth my hand upon thee, and I will make thee desolate and waste. I will destroy thy cities, and thou shalt be desolate; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord. Because thou hast been an everlasting enemy, and hast shut up the children of Israel in the hands of the sword in the time of their affliction, in the time of their last iniquity." This [Mount Seir] is a symbol for the devil, who is the enemy of the true God, as Christ pointed out in the Gospel of Matthew." And the Apostle says in the second Epistle to the Thessalonians, "Who also shall suffer eternal punishment in destruction." And Christ says in the Gospel of Matthew, "And these shall go into everlasting punishment." And in the Gospel of the Blessed Mark, He says, "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit shall never have forgiveness, but shall be guilty of an everlasting sin."

Habakkuk the prophet, referring to the eternity of the devil, says: "God will come from the south, and the holy one from Mount Pharan. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth is full of his praise. His brightness shall be as the light, horns are in his hands; there is his strength hid. Death shall go before his face, and the devil shall go forth before his feet. He stood and measured the earth; he beheld and melted the nations; and the ancient mountains were crushed to pieces. The hills of the world were bowed down by the journeys of his eternity."

Moreover, regarding the antiquity of the devil it is written in the Apocalypse, "And that great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, who is called the devil and Satan." Whence, if it be fully understood that the essences of things have neither beginning nor end by reason of their eternity, sempiternity, or antiquity (just as, for example, it is evident to anyone is true in the case of the good God), it has, then, been clearly demonstrated in the foregoing that sin, penalties, desolations, error, fire, punishment, chains, and the devil have neither beginning nor end. They are the names either of the chief principle of evil or of his effects. They are evidences of one evil cause, eternal or everlasting or ancient, because if the

effect has been eternal or everlasting, it necessarily follows that the cause was the same. There is, then, without doubt, a principle of evil from which this eternity or sempiternity and antiquity are exclusively and essentially derived.

[10] *That There Is Another Creator or Maker.* That there is, in addition to the faithful Creator to whom they that suffer "commended their souls in good deeds," another god and lord who is a creator and maker, I propose to prove clearly from the Scriptures, chiefly from the Old Testament, in accord with the trust which our opponents place in it. For they openly assert the Lord to be the creator and maker who created and made the visible things of this world, namely heaven and earth, the sea, men and beasts, birds and all creeping things, as we read in Genesis: "In the beginning God created heaven and earth. And the earth was void and empty." And again: "And God created the great whales, and every living and moving creature and every winged fowl according to its kind." And again, "And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds, and cattle, and everything that creepeth after its kind." And again, "And God created man to His own image; to the image of God he created him; male and female he made them." And Christ says in the Gospel of the Blessed Mark, "But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female."

Now it must be kept in mind that no one can point to the temporal and visible existence of the evil god in this world, nor, indeed, to that of the good God. But a cause is known by its effects. From this, it should be understood that no one can prove him to be an evil god or a creator, except by the fact of his evil works or his fickle words. But I say that he who created and made the visible things of this world is not the true Creator. This I intend to prove by the fact of his evil works and his fickle words, assuming to be true what our opponents most openly affirm, that the works and words which are recorded in the Old Testament were actually produced, visibly and materially, in this world."

For heartily we detest these works, namely adultery, theft of another's property, murder, blasphemy, concurring in falsehood, giving one's word either with or without an oath and never keeping it. All these evil things enumerated were done by the god or creator discussed above, visibly and materially, in this temporal world, according to that interpretation which our opponents put on the Old Testament. They believe that these scriptures speak of the creation and production of this world and of the works which are openly and actually seen on this earth. This also those persons who believe there is only one First Principle are of necessity

forced to admit. These things I propose clearly to prove by those scriptures to which our opponents give great credence.

[11] *That the Evil God Brought About Fornication.* Now, this lord and creator commanded in Deuteronomy: "If a man shall lie with another man's wife, they shall both die, that is to say, the adulterer and the adulteress, and thou shalt take away the evil out of Israel"; and again, "No man shall take [his] father's wife nor remove his covering," And in Leviticus, the Lord again says: "Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's wife, for it is the nakedness of thy father"; and again, "If a man lie with his stepmother and discover the nakedness of his father, let them both be put to death."

But contrary to the above-mentioned precept, it is obvious that this lord and creator caused this adultery to be committed openly and carnally in this temporal world, according to the belief and the interpretation of our opponents, as will be found most clearly expressed in the second Book of Kings, read according to their belief, for there this lord and creator says to David through the prophet Nathan: "Why therefore has thou despised the word of the Lord, to do evil in my sight? Thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Therefore the sword shall never depart from thy house, because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thy own house, and I will take thy wives before thy eyes and give them to thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly; but I will do this thing in the sight of all Israel.' " Thus, according to the belief of our opponents, either this lord and creator was a liar, or without doubt he actually brought about this adultery, as he is clearly found to have done, according to their interpretation, in the second Book of Kings: "And Ahithophel said to Absalom: 'Go in to the concubines of thy father, whom he hath left to keep the house; that when all Israel shall hear that thou hast disgraced thy father their hands may be strengthened with thee.' So they spread a tent for Absalom on the top of the house; and he went into his father's concubines before all Israel." So, as he had threatened, this lord and creator, according to our opponents' interpretation, consummated that deed of adultery temporally and visibly in this world, and also contrary to his own commandment as cited above, "If a man shall lie with another man's wife," and so on.

No wise man, therefore, assumes that the true Creator was he who actually gave a man's wives to his son or to any other man for purposes of



fornication, as that creator who, according to the belief of the ignorant made the visible things of this world is believed to have done, as is clearly shown in the foregoing. Wherefore it should be realized that the Lord our God, the true Creator, never decreed that adultery or fornication should actually be committed in this world. For the Apostle says, in his first Epistle to the Corinthians, "Do not err; neither fornicators nor adulterers shall possess the kingdom of God." And the same Apostle says to the Ephesians, "For know you this and understand, that no fornicator or unclean person hath inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." And he says to the Thessalonians, "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from fornication." Our true Creator, therefore, did not in this temporal world take the wives of David, nor give them to his neighbor to lie with in the sight of all Israel and in the sight of the sun, as was set forth above. But there is, without doubt, an evil creator, who is the source and cause of all the fornication and adultery of this World, as has been proven above and will appear below, God willing.

[12] *That the Evil God Caused the Goods of Others to Be Plundered by Force, and Murder to be Committed.* We can, moreover, clearly prove through the Old Testament, if we accept the belief of our opponents, that the aforesaid lord and creator caused the goods of others to be plundered by force and caused the actual theft — under the guise of a loan — of the wealth of the Egyptians and even caused most bloody murders. For this very lord says to Moses in Exodus: "Therefore thou shalt tell all the people that every man ask of his friend, and every woman of her neighbor, vessels of silver, and of gold. And the Lord will give favor to his people in the sight of the Egyptians." And again: "And the children of Israel did as Moses had commanded; and they asked of the Egyptians vessels of silver and gold, and very much raiment; and the Lord gave favor to the people in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them; and they stripped the Egyptians." I" And in Deuteronomy, Moses says to the people: "If at any time thou come to fight against a city, thou shalt first offer it peace. If they receive it and open the gates to thee, all the people that are therein shall be saved and shall serve thee paying tribute. But if they will not make peace, and shall begin war against thee, thou shalt besiege it. And when the Lord thy God shall deliver it into thy hands, thou shalt slay all that are therein of the male sex, with the edge of the sword, excepting women and children, cattle, and other things that are in the city. And thou shalt divide all the prey to the army; and thou shalt eat the spoils of thy enemies, which the Lord thy God shall give thee. So shalt thou do to all cities that are at great distance from thee and are not of these cities which thou shalt receive in possession. But of those cities that shall be given thee, thou shalt suffer none at all to live, but shalt kill them with the edge of the sword, to

wit, the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Canaanite, the Perizzite, and the Jebusite, and the Hivite as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee." And again in the same book: "And Sihon came out to meet us with all his people to fight at Jahaz. And the Lord our God delivered him to us; and we slew him with his sons and all his people. And we took all his cities at that time, killing the inhabitants of them, men and women and children; we left nothing of them." And again: "So the Lord our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people; and we utterly destroyed them, wasting all his cities at one time. There was not a town that escaped us; sixty cities, all the country of Argob the kingdom of Og in Bashan," and so on. "And we utterly destroyed them, as we had done to Sihon the king of Heshbon, destroying every city, men and women and children. But the cattle and the spoils of the cities we took for our prey.

Regarding the man gathering sticks on the Sabbath it is written in the Book of Numbers: "And it came to pass, when the children of Israel were in the wilderness and had found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day, that they brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole multitude. And they put him into prison, not knowing what they should do with him. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Let that man die; let all the multitude stone him without the camp.' " And again this lord says in Exodus to the people of Israel: "I will fill the number of thy days. I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and will turn the backs of all thy enemies." And in Leviticus the same lord says: "You shall pursue your enemies, and they shall fall before you. Five of yours shall pursue a hundred others, and a hundred of you ten thousand; your enemies shall fall before you by the sword." And he says in the Book of Numbers: "But if you will not kill the inhabitants of the land, they that remain shall be as nails in your eyes and spears in your sides, and they shall be your adversaries in the land of your habitation. And whatsoever I had thought to do to them, I will do to you."

[13] *On the Evil Creator.* And so, in the opinion of the wise it is quite evident that he cannot be a true creator who, in the temporal world, caused the manifest and merciless destruction of so many men and women with all their children. For it does seem incredible that in the case of the children—since they had not the knowledge rightly to distinguish good from evil, nor the free will, according to the belief of our opponents—the true Creator could in this temporal world have destroyed them pitilessly by a most revolting death; especially when the Lord had said through Ezechiel, "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, but the soul that sinneth, the same shall die." Nor does Jesus Christ, faithful Son of our Creator, enjoin his followers to visit utter destruction upon their

enemies in this temporal world, but commands rather that they do good unto them. Thus, He says in the Gospel of the Blessed Matthew: "You have heard that it hath been said to them of old, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thy enemy.' But I say to you, 'Love your enemies.' " He did not say: In this temporal world, persecute your enemies as your Father did of old; but said, "Love your enemies; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them that persecute and calumniate you, that you may be the children of your Father who is in heaven." It is as though He were saying: that you may be in the love of your Father who is in heaven, to whom belongs this work of mercy. Hence, the Son of God, Jesus Christ himself, was taught by His Father to do this work of mercy in the present, just as He says of himself in the Gospel of John, "The Son cannot do anything of himself, but what he seeth his Father doing; for what things so ever he doth, these the Son also doth in like manner." Therefore, it is evident that the Father of Jesus Christ did not cause the manifest destruction of so many men and women with all their children in this temporal world; particularly since this very God is the "Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort," as the Apostle points out to the Corinthians.

[14] *That the Evil God Cursed Christ.* Moreover, not only did the lord and creator whom we are discussing command that the aforesaid murder be committed in this temporal world, if we accept the belief of our opponents, but he cursed our Lord Jesus Christ, as is recorded in Deuteronomy: "When a man hath committed a crime and is to be punished with death and, being condemned to die, is hanged on a gibbet, his body shall not remain upon the tree, but shall be buried the same day, for he is accursed of God that hangeth on a tree." And the Apostle says to the Galatians: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us, for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.' " Whence, in the opinion of the wise, it is not at all to be believed that the Most Benevolent God, entirely of himself and not at all under the influence of His enemy, cursed His son Jesus Christ—or, rather, cursed himself, if it is true that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one and the same, as the uninformed say. But there is indubitably an evil creator, who is the source and cause of the malediction on Jesus Christ as, indeed, he is of all evil.

[15] *How That [Evil] God Concurred in Falsehood.* Now, according to our opponents, the same lord and creator is found to have concurred in falsehood by sending a very evil and lying spirit. Indeed, the spirit of this god is called an "evil spirit" and a "wicked spirit," as is recorded in the first Book of Kings: "But the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him"; and again, in the same book, "So

whensoever the evil spirit of God was upon Saul, David took his harp and played with his hand, and Saul was refreshed and was better, for the evil spirit departed from him." And in the Book of Judges it is written: "So Abimelech reigned over Israel for three years. And the Lord God sent a very evil spirit between Abimelech and the inhabitants of Shechem."<sup>o</sup> But the Lord our God sent the spirit of truth, as Christ declares in the Gospel.

And in the third Book of Kings, Micaiah the prophet says: "I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the army of heaven standing by him on the right hand and on the left. And the Lord said, 'Who shall deceive Ahab, king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead?' And one spoke words of this manner, and another otherwise. And there came forth a spirit and stood before the Lord and said, 'I will deceive him.' And the Lord said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go forth and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the Lord said, 'Thou shalt deceive him, and shalt prevail; go forth and do so.' Now therefore behold the Lord hath given a lying spirit in the mouth of all thy prophets that are here; and the Lord hath spoken evil against thee." And so, once more it is clearly seen, if we follow our opponents, that he, lord and creator, sent a very evil and a lying spirit. This the true God absolutely could not do in any fashion.

[15] *That the Evil God Did Not Keep His Promise.* This very lord and creator, moreover, promised to Abraham, and confirmed to his seed, that he would give to him and to his seed after him all the land which Abraham saw to the north and to the south, to the east and to the west, as one reads in Genesis: "And the Lord said to Abraham, after Lot was separated from him, 'Lift up thy eyes, and look from the place wherein thou now art, to the north and to the south, to the east and to the west. All the land which thou seest I will give to thee and to thy seed forever.' " And again: "Arise, walk through the land in the length, and in the breadth thereof, for I will give it to thee." And in Deuteronomy it is written: "Go in and possess the land concerning which the Lord God swore to our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that he would give it to them and to their seed after them."

[16] But although this very lord made the promise aforesaid under oath to Abraham, yet it must be believed that in a temporal sense he never fulfilled it at all. This is what the Blessed Stephen says in the Acts of the Apostles: "For he, the Lord, said to Abraham, 'Go forth out of thy country and from thy kindred and come into the land which I shall show thee.' Then he went out of the land of the Chaldeans, and dwelt in Charan. And from thence, after his father was dead, he removed him into this land

wherein you now dwell. And he gave him no inheritance in it, no, not the pace of a foot, but he promised to give it him in possession and to his seed after him." And so, it is clearly seen that he, the lord and creator, failed to fulfill a promise made under oath; nor did he ever, even according to the views of our opponents, fulfill it in the temporal and visible world. Moreover, it does not appear that Abraham in a temporal sense possessed this land at any time, whatever the unlearned may stammer about it.

[17] *How This God Was Actually Seen in This Temporal World.* It appears, also, in accordance with the belief of the dullards, that the aforesaid lord and creator was plainly seen in this world, by several persons face to face. So we read in Genesis, "And Jacob called the name of the place Penuel, saying, 'I have seen the Lord face to face.' " And in Exodus it is written: "Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abiu, and seventy of the ancients of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel"; and again, "And the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man is wont to speak to his friend." And in the Book of Numbers this lord says, "But it is not so with my servant Moses who is most faithful in all my house, for I speak to him mouth to mouth and plainly and not by riddles and figures." But our true Creator is never seen by anyone with the corporeal eyes of this world, as the Blessed John says in the Gospel, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." And the Apostle says in the first Epistle to Timothy, "To the king of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory." And to the Colossians the same Apostle says, referring to Christ, "Who is the image of the invisible God."

Therefore, the wise may read [the Scriptures] and believe without doubt that there is an evil god, lord and creator; he is the source and cause of all the evils referred to above. Otherwise, one would be led of necessity to confess that the true God himself, who is shining and good, holy, the living fountain and source of all sweetness, delight, and justice, was directly the cause and origin of all evil, wickedness, bitterness, and injustice. All opposites and contraries would flow forth entirely from the Lord himself. In the opinion of the wise, such a supposition is a most foolish fancy.

## **Part V. Against the Garatenses**

[1] *Rebuttal of the Garatenses. I* I have decided to write a further rebuttal of the Garatenses, who often have repeated a boasting challenge to us by saying: You Albanenses cannot prove by evidence from the Holy

Scriptures that an evil god is the creator of heaven and earth and all other visible things, which repeatedly you proclaim him to be. I am led to reply briefly to them . . . but it is known, however, that great hostility repeatedly appears between Saracens, the baptized, Jews, Tatars, and other religiously minded persons of this world. Although all believe that there is only one Principle, holy, good, and merciful, they are nonetheless found in constant contention with each other with their harsh words and the cruelest of deeds—even though all undoubtedly believe that in creation all men are brothers. I have already refuted this most foolish belief of theirs with clarity sufficient for the wise.

[2] *Exposure of the Foolish.* Now, however, I wish to expose to those who do have understanding the folly of the Garatenses; they, like the others, believe in only one most benevolent Creator, and yet are wont repeatedly to assert that there is another lord, the evil prince of this world, who was a creature of the most excellent Creator. He, they say, corrupted the four elements of the true Lord God. Out of these elements this evil lord in the beginning formed and made man and woman and all the other visible bodies of this world, from which have sprung all other bodies whatsoever which today prevail on earth.

But since this opinion of theirs seems most foolish to the learned, I demand that they confirm their interpretation by evidence from Holy Scriptures, by stating where—in what book, in what text, or in what part of the Bible—one may find that which they believe and openly preach to men, namely, that an evil god or lord corrupted the four elements of the good Lord God and that an evil lord in the beginning made man and woman and all other bodies whatsoever, those of birds, of fishes, of creeping things, and of cattle of this world, as they preach and attest before men.

But perchance they may say: We can indeed prove that an evil god in the beginning made man and woman and all other beings whatsoever from which all carnal bodies are derived. For as one clearly finds in Genesis, he, the evil lord, says to man and woman, to the birds, cattle, and all the other carnal bodies: "Increase and multiply and fill the earth." He says to the fishes: "Increase and multiply and fill the waters of the sea." In that book also, one finds that this god, whom we believe to be evil, says: "Let us make man to our image and likeness"; and again, "And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds, and cattle and everything that creepeth after its kind"; and again, "And the Lord God built the rib which he took from Adam into a woman."<sup>o</sup> And again, He said: "Wherefore a man shall leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they

shall be two in one flesh." " And Christ says in the Gospel of the Blessed Mark: "But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female." And he adds, "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they two shall be in one flesh. Therefore now they are not two, but one flesh," and so on. And it is in such wise, perhaps relying on the foregoing texts and others like them, that they may allege that an evil god in the beginning made the visible bodies of this world.

I will accept their allegation, so far as I am able, provided they believe the foregoing evidence to be completely true. But let them tell me whether or not they really believe and wish to accept the foregoing evidence and other words which are recorded in the Book of Genesis. If they say they do not, because the evil god is the author and no faith at all is to be put in his words, I answer that denial: Therefore, you have produced no proof from Scripture to substantiate doctrine such as you daily preach. Therefore, how, by what boldness, can you utter such words if you can provide no argument from Holy Scripture to buttress your opinion?

But suppose they say: Although we believe this god to be evil, nonetheless we accept as true this evidence which we have advanced just as it is recorded in Genesis, to wit, that he, the evil god, made the visible bodies of this world, as was pointed out in the foregoing. To them I reply: If you seek to confirm from the Book of Genesis doctrine such as you preach daily—namely, that an evil god corrupted the four elements and in the beginning made man and woman and all fleshly bodies—then why do you daily contend with us, saying that we cannot prove to you one evil creator god? Can we not plainly prove to you, through the texts from Genesis with which you buttress your opinion, that this god, whom you believe to be evil, is the creator of heaven, earth, and all other things which are visible, just as he is their maker? For in Genesis, one reads: "In the beginning God created heaven, and earth. And the earth was void and empty"; and again, "And God created the great whales, and every living and moving creature"; and so on, "and every winged fowl according to its kind." And again: "And God created man to his own image, to the image of God he created him, male and female he created them"; and again, "And he blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." And again, "But Melchizedek, the king of Salem, bringing forth bread and wine, for he was the priest of the most high God, blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by the most high God, who created heaven and earth. And blessed be the most high God by whose protection the enemies are in thy hands.' "

And so by testimony from Genesis, in accordance with the demonstration which we have presented for the Garatenses, we can plainly prove the existence of an evil creator, who created heaven, earth, and all other visible bodies whatsoever, exactly as has already been pointed out with respect to the evil "maker" by evidence from Genesis.

[3] *On All Creation.* But perhaps some imprudent person among them will say: We do, indeed, believe in only one Creator and Maker of all, who created and made all visible and invisible things, just as is written in the Gospel of the Blessed John: "All things were made by him, and without him was nothing made." And Paul says in the Acts of the Apostles: "That I preach to you: God, who made the world, and all things therein," and so on, "and hath made of one all mankind to dwell upon the whole face of the earth." In the same book the apostles said: "Lord, Thou art He that didst make heaven and earth, the sea, and all things that are in them." And in the Apocalypse is written: "Fear the Lord and give Him honor, and adore ye Him that made heaven and earth, the sea, and the fountain of waters." And the Apostle says to the Hebrews: "He that created all things is God." And so, perhaps, by these passages and others like them might they attest one sole Creator and Maker of all.

Against this I object as follows: If, indeed, the true Lord God in the beginning made male and female, fowls and cattle, and all the other visible bodies, why then, do you daily censure the carnal union of man and woman, calling it the work of the devil? Why do you not produce sons and daughters for your Lord God? Why do you not eat the meat, the eggs, and the cheese which are from your Creator, most good? And wherefore do you utterly condemn eating them, if you believe that there is only one Creator and Maker of all visible things? It is not surprising that the Romans constantly cite against you the text of the Blessed Paul, who says to Timothy: "Now the Spirit manifestly saith, that in the last times some shall depart the faith, giving heed to spirits of error, and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy, and having their conscience seared, forbidding to marry, [enjoining] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving by the faithful, and by them that have known the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be rejected." Now if it be true that the most benevolent and merciful God created and made man and woman and the visible bodies of the world, you repeatedly scorn the creation of the true Lord God when you condemn His matrimony.

The Garatenses are thus ensnared by their own words.



[4] *A Declaration to the Faithful.* Let it be spread abroad to all the faithful in Christ that, because of the slanderous statements of a certain member of the Garatenses who boasted excessively in the presence of our friends, I have been moved to write against him—as by Satan the Lord was moved when He said in the Book of Job: "Thou hast moved me against him," and so on—although I have not troubled myself to do this previously. But by the aid of Jesus Christ, I may say with the prophet: "His sorrow shall be turned on his own head: and his iniquity shall come down upon his crown." Now, however, I serve notice upon you Alb . . . and the whole group of your Garatenses that if using the whole text of the Bible you wish to uphold and defend your faith, that which you hold and preach every day before your believers—which is that the devil corrupted the four elements of the true Lord God, to wit, heaven, earth, water, and fire; that he in the beginning made man and woman and the other visible bodies of this world—I intend to uphold and defend my faith, which I hold and openly preach before Christ's faithful, by testimony of the Law, the prophets, and the New Testament, which I believe to be true and to declare the truth, namely, that there is an evil god who created heaven and earth, the great whales, and every living and moving creature, and every winged fowl according to its kind, and made man and woman; who formed man of the slime of the earth, and breathed into him the breath of life—things which this god has done, as I have clearly read in the Book of Genesis." If you desire to meet this challenge, choose any place which seems to you appropriate and convenient, in the full knowledge that I, as I have already made clear, am prepared with the aid of the true Father to sustain my position.

[5] *A Challenge.* Again, I wish you to know, Al . . ., that I have been informed by Peter of Ferrara" of your admission to him that you are unable to establish through the text of the New Testament this belief of yours to the effect that the devil corrupted the four elements of the good God and that he made male and female, or words to this effect. Whence I say this to you and to all your Garatenses: If you wish to confess this in the presence of our faithful followers and friends, to wit, that you cannot prove the truth of your faith by texts which you believe to be valid and to declare the truth; if, as is reported, you wish to confess this, know you that I elect to uphold my faith and to prove it by the Holy Scriptures and by texts which I believe to declare the truth. My position is that this god, whom I believe to be evil, created heaven and earth and the other things enumerated above. If you are unwilling to admit this, defend, then, your faith, which you so assiduously preach, by texts which you believe to be true and to declare the truth, just as I stand ready to defend my faith. If, indeed, you do not wish to do this, it is truly most astonishing that you

ask men to accept your belief, which is that the devil corrupted the four elements of the true Lord God, out of which in the beginning he made the visible bodies of this world. It is astonishing, moreover, that you cannot produce solid proof by texts which you believe to be valid and to declare the truth, yet you choose to reject my most benevolent faith, which I am prepared to buttress strongly by evidence from the Law, the prophets, and from the New Testament.

Now let the adversary of truth keep silent and never again dare to utter the words referred to above!

[6.] *A Further Argument against the Garatenses.*] A further argument against the Garatenses is this: that every day they preach and assert that in the beginning the devil corrupted the four elements of the true Lord God, namely, heaven, earth, water, and fire. If this is true, as they believe and repeatedly preach and affirm to their believers, let the Garatenses answer the following objection which I pose against them: Was this corruption of the holy elements of the true Lord God, which was accomplished by the devil, a good and holy thing, or was it evil and most vain? If they should answer that it was good and holy, the reply then would be: If that were true, they would falsely believe and preach. For they say the devil corrupted the four elements of the true God, which would be untrue, since a good and holy act would not corrupt the holy elements which were from the good Lord God. And, pursuing this argument, it would be necessary for them to believe that the formation of male and female, from which visible bodies were produced and which they hold to have been effected in the beginning by the devil, was good and holy. This is the exact opposite of their belief, since they preach and absolutely affirm that acts of union of male and female are wicked and not in accordance with the will of God. Why, then, do they reject meat, eggs, and cheese, made from the most holy elements, if that corruption or formation which was accomplished by the devil in the beginning was good and holy? Hence, whoever may say this is admirably refuted.

But assume them to reply: That corruption or formation of the most holy elements of the true Lord God which was accomplished by the devil was evil and most vain and contrary to God's will, as they indubitably believe and affirm. The rejoinder then would be: Now let the Garatenses answer whether the corruption of the most holy elements—which was evil and vain, which was accomplished by the devil, as was admitted above—was done by the will of the Most Holy Father or entirely against His will. If they should say that the corruption of the holy elements was done by the will of the Lord, for it is incredible that the devil could corrupt the most

holy elements contrary to the will of God, the rejoinder would be: Thus it follows that the Lord had an evil will when He desired evil and most vain corruption to be accomplished in His most holy elements, as just stated. And if they should say that the will of God was good and holy when He wished His holy elements to be corrupted, for by that corruption or formation was established the kingdom of the most holy Creator, namely, the kingdom of new souls, who had been created from eternity and are now daily given form through the union of man and woman, then it would follow of necessity that the union of man and woman is entirely good and holy, if thus and in no other way God seeks completely to renew His kingdom with new souls. Now this union ought not to be utterly repudiated, as the Garatenses repeatedly do, were it the true means by which new souls are given form. If, however, they should say: Indeed, we believe this corruption or formation was effected in the most holy elements contrary to the will of God, then it follows of necessity that there is another principle, one of evil, which can corrupt the four elements of the most holy Creator entirely against the latter's will. This would not be true if there were only one First Principle. Also, had the devil been a creature of the true Lord God, he could not have done any violence to the most holy elements against the latter's will. Therefore, it follows that there are two principles of things, to wit, one of good, the other of evil; and the latter is the source of the corruption of the holy elements and also the source of all evil. Therefore, the Garatenses are entangled in their own most foolish arguments.

But perhaps they would still protest by saying: The corruption of the holy elements was not accomplished by the will of the Lord nor against His will, but was done by His permission and acquiescence. But let the Garatenses answer whether this acquiescence and permission, by which the most holy elements were corrupted, was good and holy, or evil and most vain. If they should say: This acquiescence was good and holy, then it follows of necessity that the holy elements were not corrupted at all, since the most holy elements would not be corrupted by a good and holy acquiescence. And also, that formation of man and woman which, as they believe, was effected by the devil would be most good and holy; which is the direct opposite of what the Garatenses believe. If, however, they should say: It was evil and vain (as is the truth of the matter). -- then God made a most foolish and wicked concession, and thus God was the cause of this evil, as the Apostle says to the Romans: "Not only they that do them are worthy of death, but they also that consent to them." It is absolutely impossible to believe this of the true Lord God. It then follows of necessity that there is another principle, one of evil, who forced the true God to permit and suffer the wicked and most vain. corruption in His

most holy elements, quite against His will. This in no wise would the true Lord God do entirely and directly of His own will.

And so, in all the ways recounted above, the Garatenses are ensnared in their own words.

## Part VI. On Will

[1] *On the Ignorance of Many Persons.* Since many persons enveloped in the darkness of ignorance maintain that not only those who will be saved but those who never will be saved have a potency for salvation and can be saved, I have decided to demolish this absurd opinion with most valid argument. Now, let the unlearned answer the question whether a person can at any moment do that which he has not done, does not do, never will do. If they reply in the negative, [they admit that] there is no doubt of its impossibility, for that which cannot be accomplished at any time is never possible of accomplishment.

At this point I state the issue: Let us presume that there is a certain person who never did good in order to merit salvation, is not doing so, and never will do so. Therefore, in accordance with the above reply, it was impossible for him at any moment to do good in order to merit salvation; hence, the potency for salvation was never in him. Nor, if the potency for salvation was never in him, did this individual ever have a free will by which he might merit salvation. Why, then, will God judge him, as the dullards opine, if in him there never was the potency for salvation nor for doing good in order to merit salvation, as was admitted above? Hence, by this reasoning, vain will be the belief of those who declared that those persons who are to be saved as well as those who never are to be saved have a potency for salvation and can be saved, as was said above.

However, they may say: Indeed, this person could do good if he chose-- although he never has done, does not now, and never will do good -- but he does not wish to. This is the opinion of dullards. Now, I raise the question of will in the same way as above I raised the question of potency. For instance, there is a certain person who never had a good will by which to merit salvation; he does not now have and never will have it. Let them tell me whether this person can ever have the good will which merits salvation. If they say no, because he never had this desire and never will have it -- as was said above in the matter of potency and as also is the truth of the matter -- then, if he had not the good will which would merit salvation, he indubitably has not the potency to achieve salvation or to do

good in order to merit it, since without good will no one can be saved. Therefore, there was never in him the capacity for desiring to do good or for doing good in order to be saved.

In the same way I raise the question of knowledge. Suppose there is a certain person who never was wise enough to tell good from evil or truth from falsehood in order to merit salvation, one who never was and never will be wise enough (undoubtedly many such are to be encountered in this world). If the reply to my question is in the negative, as it was in the matter of potency and of will, then never can this person have the wisdom to distinguish good from evil so as to merit salvation. Therefore, he can not be saved, because without discernment no one can be saved. Therefore, as was pointed out above, this man never had within himself the capacity for salvation or to desire or know the good in order to merit salvation; and by this reasoning will be destroyed the belief of those who say that God shall judge men on their ability (*arbitrium*) to distinguish good from evil and that in those who never will be saved there is the potency for salvation.

But if they reply rashly, saying that indeed this person was able to do what he did not, does not now, and never will do; and was able to have this desire which he had not, has not, and never will have; that he was able to have this knowledge which he had not, has not, and never will have, my answer is this: If that were absolutely true, we might say as well that one can make a goat pope of the Church of the Romans and do all things which are impossible! That one could wish to burn in eternal fire, to suffer all evils and the worst of misfortunes, and, indeed, could have perfect knowledge of the true Lord God, knowledge as whole and perfect as God has! — This is stupid to say and absurd to believe. In truth, if that which was not, is not, and never will be can come to pass, and if it wholly and directly exists in potency, it follows without a doubt that the angels and all the saints could become demons, demons could become glorious angels; Christ could become the devil, and the devil the glorious Christ; and all impossibilities could exist and do exist in potency! This is most false to say and most absurd to believe.

Now the right of the matter is this: A person is able to do whatever he has done, does now, and will do in the future; this existed or exists in him potentially. That which he has not done, does not now do, and never will do, a person cannot do. It did not and does not exist potentially in him in any way, for we cannot properly affirm that that which never eventuates in act in any way exists in potency.

A second comment: I say that in all things which were, are, and shall be the following two things were necessary before they came into existence: the necessity of being and the impossibility of not being. This is particularly true in respect of Him who has complete knowledge from eternity of all the past, the present, and the future. For if God knows that something will be before it exists, it is impossible for it not to come into existence, because God could not know that it would come to pass were there the possibility that it would not. For instance, if before Peter dies someone knows that he is to die today, it is necessary for him to die today, since it is impossible for him both to die and not to die today. Therefore, before his death there pre-existed the necessity of dying and the impossibility of not dying. In respect of him who knew that Peter would die today, then, it was necessary for Peter to die today and impossible for him not to die today.

Here is another argument [against free will]: God, as many believe, made His angels good and perfect. Did He, or did He not, know before they existed that they would become demons? If He did not know it, then He is imperfect, not absolutely all-knowing. In the minds of wise men this is impossible. Therefore, He indubitably knew that they would become demons before they did so, since the First Cause is intelligence, knowing perfectly that which shall come to pass in accordance with that which has the possibility of coming to pass, as Aristotle proves in the third book of *Physics*, where he says that to the First Cause all things are in the present.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the necessity of their being demons and the impossibility of their not being demons preceded the existence of the angels. It was, then, utterly impossible for them not to be demons, and especially so in respect of God, in whom all things which were, are, and shall be, are in the present, as was said previously. How, by what audacity, can the ignorant say that the aforesaid angels could remain good and holy with their Lord for all time, since that was forever impossible in God, who knows all things before they come to pass, as Susanna says in the Book of Daniel, "O eternal God, who knowest hidden things, who knowest all things before they come to pass"? And so it naturally follows that all things, of necessity, were created in the First Cause. Therefore, those things which are created have being and can exist; and, conversely, those things which are not created have no being and cannot exist in any way. So vanishes the opinion of those who said that the angels had the power both to sin and not to sin.

[2] *More on This Concept.* The concept presented above cannot, I maintain, be reconciled with the theories of those who believe that there is only one First Principle, who believe that new souls or spirits are daily being

created, and that the Lord must judge the good and the wicked, adults and children (*magnum et parvos*), entirely on the basis of their free will or choice. Let these persons answer this question: According to their belief are all peoples to be gathered together before God? If this were true, there would be an untold multitude of children of all races, four years of age or less, and an astonishing multitude of the dumb, the deaf, and the simple-minded, none of whom were ever able to do penance, none of whom had from God in any measure either the ability or the knowledge to do good. Why or how would the Lord Jesus be able to say to these: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me to eat," and so on? Such a statement most certainly could not be true, since they never were in any way able to do so [of their free will], nor have they done so. But if, perchance, anyone should say that they are to be damned to eternity, I answer that this is wholly rejected in terms of free will. How would the Lord be able to say to these: "Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire. For I was hungry and you gave me not to eat," and so on? For they could reasonably excuse themselves on the very grounds of free will, saying:

We were never able in any way to do this because You never bestowed upon us the capacity for or the knowledge of how to do good. And so free will as it is conceived of by our opponents is entirely rejected.

Consider this most evil concept! There are, indeed, some who believe that children who are born and who die on the same day and whose souls have been newly created will be tortured in eternal punishment forever and ever, and that they can never escape therefrom. Indeed, how utterly astounding is their boldness in preaching that the Lord Jesus must judge all men in terms of free will, for that concept, as was shown above, is utterly untrue.

## **Part VII. On Persecutions**

[1] *On Striking' the Shepherd.* "For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be dispersed.'" "The shepherd" means Christ; "the dispersed sheep of the flock" refers to the disciples. But the true Lord God did not by His own act absolutely and directly strike His Son Jesus Christ, for if He had committed this murder by His own act exclusively and essentially no one could incriminate Pilate or the Pharisees or Judah in any way, for they would have carried out the will of

God fully; on the contrary, it would have been a sin to resist the will of God. Whence the explanation is this: God "struck" His Son by enduring His death, for they were powerless to carry out the deed unless the Lord himself had permitted it. And this is what Christ said to Pilate: "Thou shouldst not have any power against me unless it were given thee from above." "Unless [permission] were given," He said – not "unless the power were given" – as though He were saying: Unless it were allowed you by God, you would have no power to do me any hurt. For it was the evil principle through whom Pilate and the Pharisees and Judah and the others committed this murder. The true Lord God endured this wicked deed, being unable in a better way to deliver His people from the power of the enemy. He says through Isaiah: "For the wickedness of my people have I struck him." For the disciples, too, have been dispersed, that is, put apart from Christ by the power of evil spirits, for a certain purpose, which was not a good one, as is subsequently recorded: "Then the disciples all leaving Him fled."

*[In the manuscript, the passage just translated is followed by miscellaneous items, chiefly excerpts from the Pauline epistles, which occupy one folio. Thereafter appears the Catharist ritual in Latin -- see The Cathar Ritual -- and then the following passages on persecution.]*

[2] *On the Persecution of the Prophets, of Christ, of the Apostles, and of Others Who Followed Them.* As I pondered when reading and rereading the Holy Scriptures, it seemed to me that many times in them were attested the evils which the prophets and Christ and the apostles once bore in all forgiveness while doing good for the salvation of their souls; and as well, how in the last days the followers of Christ must bear many scandals, tribulations, persecutions, afflictions, sorrows, even death through false Christs and false prophets, and through evil men and seducers; and how they should forgive them that persecute and calumniate them, pray for them, do good unto them, likewise seeking not to resist them. In just that way now the true Christians are seen to act, fulfilling the Holy Scriptures to their own good and honor, and indeed the ungodly and the sinners are seen to act to their own hurt, so as to fill up their sins always to the measure of their fathers.

Whence Paul says in the second Epistle to Timothy: "Know also this, that in the last days shall come dangerous times. Men shall be lovers of themselves, covetous, haughty, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, wicked, without affection, without peace, slanderers, incontinent, unmerciful, without kindness, stubborn, puffed up, and lovers of pleasures more than of God, having an appearance indeed of



godliness, but denying the power thereof. Now these avoid." And Christ says in the Gospel of Matthew: "There shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch as to deceive, if possible, even the elect." And to the Romans Paul says: "And as they liked not to have God in their knowledge, God delivered them up to a reprobate sense to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all iniquity, malice, fornication, avarice, wickedness; full of envy, murder, contention, deceit, malignity; whisperers, detractors, hateful to God, contumelious, proud, pleasing to themselves, haughty, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, foolish, dissolute, without affection, without fidelity, without mercy." 10 And the Blessed Peter says in his second Epistle: "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there shall be among you lying teachers, who shall bring in sects of perdition and deny the Lord who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their riotousnesses, through whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you, whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their perdition slumbereth not." And Paul says to Timothy in the second Epistle: "But evil men and seducers shall grow worse and worse, erring and driving into error." And in the Acts of the Apostles Paul says: "Take heed to yourselves, and to the whole flock, wherein the Holy Spirit hath placed you bishops, to rule the Church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood. For I know that after my departure ravening wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock. And of them shall arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, keeping in memory."

[3] *On the Persecution of the Prophets.* Moreover, one finds many references to the persecution of the prophets and of Christ and of the apostles. For Paul says to the Hebrews concerning the persecution of the prophets: "And what shall I yet say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, put to flight the armies of foreigners. Women received their dead raised to life again. But others were racked, not accepting deliverance, that they might find a better resurrection. And others had trial of mockeries and stripes, moreover also of bands and prisons. They were killed, they were cut asunder, they were tempted, they were put to death by the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being in want, distressed, afflicted, of whom the world was not worthy; wandering in

deserts, in mountains, and in dens, and in caves of the earth. And all these, being approved by the testimony of faith, received not the promise, God providing some better thing for us, that they should not be perfected without us." And Christ says in the Gospel of the Blessed Matthew: "For so they persecuted the prophets that were before you." And in the Acts of the Apostles, the Blessed Stephen says: "You stiffnecked and noncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you also. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them who foretold of the coming of this just Christ, of whom you have been now the betrayers and murderers who have received the Law by the disposition of angels and have not kept it."

And in the Gospel of Matthew, Christ says: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! that build the sepulchers of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the just, and say, 'If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' Wherefore you are witnesses against yourselves, that you are the sons of them that killed the prophets. Fill ye up, then, the measure of your fathers. you serpents, generation of vipers, how will you flee from the judgment of hell? Therefore behold, I send to you prophets and wise men and scribes, and some of them you will put to death and crucify, and some you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that upon you may come all the just blood that has been shed upon the earth, from the blood of Abel the just even unto the blood of Zechariah the son of Berechiah, whom you killed between the temple and the altar. Amen, I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them that are sent unto thee! How often would I have gathered together thy children as the hen cloth gather her chickens under her wings, and thou wouldst not! Behold, your house shall be left to you desolate. For I say to you, you shall not see me further, till you say, 'Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.'" And the Blessed James says in the Epistle: "Take, my brethren, for an example of suffering evil, of labor and patience, of forbearance, the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we account them blessed who have endured. You have heard of the patience of Job, and you have seen the end of the Lord, that the Lord is merciful and compassionate."

[4] *On the Passion and Persecution of Christ.* Moreover, the tribulation and persecution and passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, occurring after the tribulation of the prophets of which we spoke above, is manifestly displayed in Holy Scriptures. For it is found in the Gospel of

the Blessed Matthew that when Christ was a child it was announced to Joseph by an angel: 'Arise, and take the child and His mother, and fly into Egypt, and be there until I shall tell thee. For it will come to pass that Herod will seek the child to destroy Him.' Who arose, and took the child and His mother and retired into Egypt, and he was there until the death of Herod." And in the Gospel of the Blessed Luke it is written of Christ: "And Joseph and His mother were wondering at those things which were spoken concerning Him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is set for the fall and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted, and thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed.'" And it is written in the Gospel of the Blessed Matthew: "And Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples apart and said to them, 'Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man shall be betrayed to the chief priests and the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death. And shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to be mocked, and scourged, and crucified, and the third day He shall rise again"; and again, "You know that after two days shall be the pasch, and the Son of man shall be delivered up to be crucified."

And in the Gospel of John, Christ says: "Amen, amen, I say unto you, before Abraham was made, I am.' They took up stones therefore to cast at Him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple" ; and again, "The chief priests, therefore, and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, 'What shall we do, for this man doth many miracles? If we let him alone so, all will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away our place and nation.' But one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that year, said to them, 'You know nothing; neither do you consider that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.' And this he spoke not of himself, but, being the high priest of that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for the nation, and not only for the nation, but to gather together in one the children of God that were dispersed. From that day therefore they devised to put Him to death"; and again, "The world cannot hate you, but me it hateth because I give testimony of it that the works thereof are evil." And again, "These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hate you, know ye that it hath hated me before you. If you had been of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember my word that I said to you, 'The servant is not greater than his master.' If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for my name's sake, because they know not him that

sent me.'" And the Blessed John says in the Apocalypse: "And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to be delivered, that when she should be delivered, he might devour her son." And the Blessed James says: "You have feasted upon earth, and in riotousness you have nourished your hearts in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and put to death the Just One and he resisted you not." And in the Acts of the Apostles, the Blessed Peter says: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words:

Jesus of Nazareth, approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs which God did by Him, in the midst of you, as you also know; this same being delivered up, by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you, by the hands of wicked men, have crucified and slain. Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the sorrows of hell, as it was impossible that He should be holden by it." And again, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know most certainly that God hath made both Lord and Christ, this same Jesus, whom you have crucified." And again: "Ye men of Israel, why wonder at this, or why look you upon us, as if by our strength or power we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus, whom you indeed delivered up and *denied* before the face of Pilate, when he judged He should be released. But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you. But the author of life you killed, whom God hath raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. And in the faith of His name, this man, whom you have seen and known, hath His name strengthened; and the faith which is by Him, hath given soundness in the sight of you all. And now, brethren, I know that you did it through ignorance, as did also your rulers. But those things which God before had showed by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He hath so fulfilled.

Be penitent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, that when the times of refreshment shall come from the presence of the Lord, and He shall send Him who hath been preached unto you, Jesus Christ, whom heaven indeed must receive until the times of the restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of his holy prophets from the beginning of the world." And again, the apostles with one accord said: "Lord, thou that didst make heaven and earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, who, by the Holy Spirit, by the mouth of our father David, thy servant, hast said, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the people meditate vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the princes assembled together against the Lord and his Christ. For of a truth there assembled together in this city against Thy holy child Jesus, whom

Thou hast anointed, Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, to do what thy hand and thy counsel decreed to be done." And again, "But Peter and the apostles answering, said, 'We ought to obey God, rather than men. The God of our fathers hath raised up Jesus, whom you put to death, hanging Him upon a tree. Him hath God exalted with His right hand, to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins. And we are witnesses of these things, and the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to all that obey Him.' When they had heard these things, they were cut to the heart and they thought to put them to death." And again, "God sent the word to the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all). You know the word which hath been published through all Judea, for it began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things that He did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom the Jews rejected and killed, hanging Him upon a tree. Him God raised up the third day, and gave Him to be made manifest; not to all the people but to witnesses preordained by God, even to us, who did eat and drink with Him after he arose again from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.

To Him all the prophets give testimony that by His name all receive remission of sins who believe in him." And again, "Men, brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you fear God, to you the word of this salvation is sent. For they that inhabit Jerusalem, and the rulers thereof, not knowing Him nor the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, judging Him have fulfilled them; and finding no cause of death in Him, they desired of Pilate that they might kill Him. And when they had fulfilled all things that were written of Him, taking Him down from the tree, they laid Him in a sepulcher. But God raised Him up from the dead the third day."<sup>34</sup> And the Blessed Peter says in the first Epistle: "Christ, therefore, having suffered in the flesh, be you also armed with the same thought, for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sins, that now he may live the rest of his time in the flesh, not after the desires of men but according to the will of God." And the Blessed Mark says in the Gospel: "And He taketh Peter and James and John with Him, and He began to fear and be sorrowful and be heavy. And He saith to them, 'My soul is sorrowful even unto death; stay you here and watch.'"<sup>35</sup> And again: "And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole earth until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, '*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*' which

is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why halt thou forsaken me?" And again, "And Jesus, having cried out with a loud voice, gave up the ghost." And the Blessed Matthew says: "Then they crucified with Him two thieves, one on the right hand and one on the left"; and again, "And Jesus, again crying with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost." And the Blessed Luke says: "And Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.' And saying this, He gave up the ghost."

[5] *On the Tribulation of the Saints.* The subject of our Lord Jesus Christ's tribulation and passion has been quite clearly attested, as was shown most abundantly in the foregoing. Now we must speak of the tribulation and persecution and death which the apostles and their heirs had to suffer in time to come, doing good and forgiving, and how they must also endure in their own time. In just that way true Christians now are seen to act, those called heretics now, as they were in the time of Paul, as he himself says in the Acts of the Apostles: "But this I confess to thee, that according to the way which they call a heresy, so do I serve God my father"; and again, "For as concerning this sect, you know that it is everywhere contradicted." Whence our Lord Jesus Christ when describing the forthcoming persecution to His disciples says in the Gospel of the Blessed Matthew: "Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye when they shall revile you and persecute you and speak all that is evil against you untruly for my sake; be glad in that day and rejoice, for your reward is very great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets that were before you." And again: "Behold, I send you as sheep in the midst of wolves. Be ye, therefore, wise as serpents and simple as doves. But beware of men; for they will deliver you up in councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues, and you shall be brought before governors and before kings for my sake, for a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they shall deliver you up, take no thought how or what to speak, for it shall be given you in that hour what to speak. For it is not you that speak, but the Spirit of your Father that speaketh in you. The brother also shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the son, and the children shall rise up against their parents and shall put them to death; and you shall be hated by all men for my name's sake. But he that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved. And when they shall persecute you in this city, flee into another. Amen, I say to you, you shall not finish all the cities of Israel till the Son of man come. The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord; it is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the Goodman of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household?"

And in the Gospel, Christ says: "Amen, amen, I say to you, that you shall lament and weep, but the world shall rejoice; and you shall be made sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in labor, hath sorrow, because her hour is come; but when she hath brought forth the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. So also you now indeed have sorrow, but I will see you again and your heart shall rejoice; and your joy no man shall take from you." And in the Gospel of the Blessed Matthew Christ says: "Take heed that no man seduce you. For many will come in my name saying, 'I am Christ,' and they will seduce many. And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be pestilences and famines and earthquakes in places; now all these are the beginnings of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and you shall be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be scandalized, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise and shall seduce many. And because iniquity hath abounded, the charity of many shall grow cold. But he that shall persevere to the end, he shall be saved." And in the Apocalypse it is said: "Behold, the devil will cast you into prison, that you may be tried, and you shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful until death, and I will give thee the crown of life?" 48 And in the Gospel of John, Christ says to His disciples: "These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hate you, know ye that it hath hated me before you. If you had been of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember my word that I said to you, 'The servant is not greater than his master.' If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for my name's sake, because they know not Him that sent me."

[6] *How the Saints Have Suffered.* It is made quite clear in Holy Scriptures, as we pointed out in the preceding, how our Lord Jesus Christ showed through His words that in His name His disciples would bear tribulations and persecutions and even death in days to come. But now we must describe how they in their time bore many evils and tribulations and persecutions and even death in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, just as He himself foretold to them in the Holy Scriptures. For He says in the Gospel of John: "And now I come to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy filled in themselves. I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them because they are not of the

world, as I also am not of the world. I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from evil. They are not of the world, as I also am not of the world." And the Blessed John in the first Epistle says: "Wonder not, brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren." And the Blessed Peter in the first Epistle says: "Dearly beloved, think not strange the burning heat which is to try you, as if some new thing happened to you. But if you partake of the sufferings of Christ, rejoice that when His glory shall be revealed you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you be reproached for the name of Christ, you shall be blessed, for that which is of the honor, glory, and power of God, and that which is his Spirit shall rest upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a railer, or a coveter of other men's things; but if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For the time is that judgment should begin at the house of God. And if first at us, what shall be the end of them that did not believe the gospel of God? And if the just man shall scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them also that suffer according to the will of God commend their souls in good deeds to the faithful Creator."

And Paul in the Acts of the Apostles says of himself, "And I, indeed, did formerly think that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which also I did at Jerusalem, and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority of the chief priests, and when they were put to death, I brought the sentence. And oftentimes punishing them, in every synagogue, compelled them to blaspheme, and being yet more mad against them, persecuted them even unto foreign cities." And the Blessed Peter in the first Epistle says: "For this is thankworthy, if for conscience toward God, a man endure sorrow, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it if committing sin and being buffeted for it, you endure? But if doing well you suffer patiently, this is thankworthy before God, for unto this are you called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example that you should follow His steps. Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile; when He suffered, He threatened not, but delivered himself to him that judged him unjustly. Who His own self bore our sins in His body upon the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live to justice; by whose stripes you were healed. For you were as sheep going sometimes astray, but you are now converted to the shepherd and bishop of your souls." And in the Acts of the Apostles it is written: "And at that time there was raised a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem, and they were all dispersed through the countries of Judaea



and Samaria, except the apostles." And Paul says to the Romans: "Who then shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or persecution, or the sword? As it is written, 'For Thy sake we are put to death all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.'

But in all these things we overcome because of Him that hath loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor virtues, nor things present, nor things to come, nor might, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." And the Blessed Peter in the first Epistle says: "If now you must be for a little time made sorrowful in divers temptations, that the trial of your faith, much more precious than gold which is tried by the fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the appearing of Jesus Christ." And Paul in the Acts of the Apostles says: "Men, brethren, I have conversed with all good knowledge before God until this present day." And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to strike him on the mouth." And again Paul himself says to the Corinthians in the first Epistle: "Even unto this hour we both hunger and thirst and are naked and are buffeted and have no fixed abode; and we labor, working with our own hands. We are reviled and we bless; we are persecuted and we suffer it. We are blasphemed and we entreat; we are made as the refuse of this world, the offscouring of all even until now. I write not these things to confound you, but I admonish you as my dearest children." And Blessed Peter in the first Epistle says: "And who is he that can hurt you, if you be zealous of good? But if also you suffer anything for justice' sake, blessed are ye. And be not afraid of their fear, so that you be not troubled." And Paul in the first Epistle to the Corinthians says of himself: "For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God." And Paul in the second Epistle to the Corinthians: "In all things we suffer tribulation, but are not distressed; we are straitened, but are not destitute; we suffer persecution, but are not forsaken; we are cast down, but we perish not. Always bearing about in our body the mortification of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in our bodies. For we who live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake; that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in our mortal flesh."" And to the Ephesians, the same Apostle says: "Finally, brethren, be strengthened in the Lord and in the might of His power. Put you on the armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the deceits of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places.

Therefore take unto you the armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and to stand in all things perfect. Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of justice, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in all things taking the shield of faith, wherewith you may be able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the most wicked one. And take unto you the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. By all prayer and supplication praying at all times in the spirit, and in the same watching." And in the second Epistle to the Corinthians, the same Apostle says: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we also may be able to comfort them who are in all distress, by the exhortation wherewith we also are exhorted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so also by Christ doth our comfort abound.

Now whether we be in tribulation, it is for your exhortation and salvation; or whether we be exhorted, it is for your exhortation and salvation, which worketh in us in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer. That our hope for you may be steadfast, knowing that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so shall you be also of the consolation. For we would not have you ignorant, brethren, of one tribulation, which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure above our strength, so that we were weary even of life. But we had in ourselves the answer of death, that we should not be confident in ourselves but in God who raiseth the dead. Who hath delivered and doth deliver us out of so great dangers; in whom we trust that He will yet also deliver us. You helping withal in prayer for us." 84 And to the Galatians Paul said: "For you have heard of my conversation in times past in the Jews' religion: how that, beyond measure, I persecuted the Church of God and wasted it. And I made progress in the Jews' religion above many of my equals in my own nation, being more abundantly zealous for the traditions of my fathers." And again, to the Corinthians in the second Epistle: "I speak according to dishonor, as if we had been weak in this part. Wherein if any man dare (I, speak foolishly), I dare also. They are Hebrews? So am I. They are the seed of Abraham? So am I. [They are ministers of Christ?] I speak as one less wise. I am more, in many more labors, in prisons more frequently, in stripes above measure, in deaths often. Of the Jews five times did I receive forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods; once I was stoned. Thrice I suffered shipwreck; a night and a day I was in peril of the sea; in journeying often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils from my own nation, in perils from the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils from false brethren; in labor and

painfulness, in much watchings, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Besides those things, which are without, my daily instance, the solicitude for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is scandalized, and I am not on fire?"

And in the second Epistle to the Thessalonians, Paul says: "So that we ourselves also glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith, and in all your persecutions and retributions which you endure, for an example of the just judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which also you suffer. Seeing it is a just thing with God to repay tribulation to them that trouble you, and to you who are troubled, rest with us when our Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven." And in the first Epistle to Timothy, Paul says of himself. "I give Him thanks who hath strengthened me, even to Christ Jesus our Lord, for that He hath counted me faithful, putting me in the ministry who before was a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and contumelious. But I obtained the mercy of God, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." And to the Thessalonians, in the first Epistle, the Apostle himself says: "You, however, are become followers of the brethren of the churches of God which are in Judaea, in Christ Jesus. For you also have suffered the same things from your own countrymen, even as they have from the Jews, who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and have persecuted us, and please not God, and are adversaries to all men, prohibiting us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, to fill up their sins always, for the wrath of God is come upon them to the end."

And again: "And we sent Timothy, our brother and the minister of God in the gospel of Christ, to confirm you and exhort you concerning your faith, that no man should be moved in these tribulations, for yourselves know, that we are appointed thereunto. For even when we were with you, we foretold you that we should suffer tribulations, as also it is come to pass and you know. For this cause also, I, forbearing no longer, sent to know your faith, lest perhaps he that tempteth should have tempted you, and our labor should be made vain." And to the Corinthians, in the first Epistle, Paul says: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." And to the Philippians, Paul says: "And in nothing be ye terrified by the adversaries, which to them is a cause of perdition but to you of salvation, and this from God. For unto you it is given for Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him, having the same conflict as that which you have seen in me and now have heard of me." Whence, the same Paul in that second Epistle to Timothy says: "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, patience, persecutions, afflictions, such as came upon me

at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me. And all that will live godly in Christ Jesus, suffer persecution."

*And now the book is finished; let us give thanks to Christ.*

## Interrogatio Iohannis

### (The Secret Supper - The Book of John the Evangelist)

#### Editorial Notes

The *Interrogatio Iohannis* (The Questions of John) is one of the most important extant Cathar Scriptures and a major addition to the known Johannine literature. It is titled from the first words (*incipit*) of its text -- the complete Latin title is: "*Interrogatio Iohannis apostoli et evangelistae in cena secreta regni coelorum de ordinatione mundi istius et de principe et de Adam.*" It has been variably titled in translations as "The Book of John the Evangelist" and "The Secret Supper" (*Cena Secreta*).

This scripture preserves a work from the Johannine tradition (the tradition of John the Beloved), a work with possible first source in an early period of Classical Gnosticism -- though the surviving versions certainly suggest an evolution during the centuries of transmission. It should not be dismissed as simply a "Cathar or Bogomil production" of medieval times (as M. R. James suggested in introduction to his 1924 translation, below). There are many core elements in the text that witness relationship with other surviving writings from the classical Christian Gnostic tradition -- for example, compare it with the Acts of John.

Two versions of the text have survived: one was discovered in the archives of the Inquisition kept at the French town of Carcassonne in Languedoc, the other is found in the National Library of Vienna. The considerable differences between the two manuscripts indicate a long and independent manuscript history, probably reaching back centuries to an original edition.

According to an annotation in the Carcassonne text, this is a Latin translation of an earlier manuscript brought to Italy (probably around 1190) from Bulgaria by Nazario, bishop of the Cathar community of Concorezzo (now the province of Monza and Brianza). From there it passed into Languedoc, arriving before 1209, the beginning year of the persecution of the Cathars of France by Pope Innocent III. The original language of the *Interrogatio Iohannis* was probably Slavonic or Greek.

It was first published in the seventeenth century by I. Benoist in his 1691 book, "Histoire et des Vaudois ou des Albigeois Barbets". It was analyzed in 1832 by J. K. Thilo in his "Codex apocryphus Novi Testamenti," and again in 1929 by R. Reitzenstein in his "Die Vorgeschichte der christlichen Taufe". In 1924 it was translated by M. R. James in his classic work, *The Apocryphal New Testament*.

We present the text in two different translations:

- First, a translation based on the text in Walter L. Wakefield and Austin P. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages* (2nd ed., New York: Columbia University Press, 1991), p. 458ff. (and based on the translation of Reitzenstein in "Die Vorgeschichte der christlichen Taufe.") The version we give here contains minor corrections and some minor rephrasing of versification.
- Second, an older and less adequate translation from M. R. James, found in his classic work, *The Apocryphal New Testament*.

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## **Interrogatio Iohannis** **(Titled in translation: *The Secret Supper*)**

*Based on: Walter L. Wakefield and Austin P. Evans  
Heresies of the High Middle Ages (Columbia Univ. Press, 1991)  
p. 458ff.*

In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The questions of John, the apostle and evangelist, at a secret supper in the kingdom of heaven, about the governance of this world, about its ruler, and about Adam:

I, John, partner in tribulation so that I might be a partner in the kingdom of God, leaning on the breast of Jesus Christ our Lord at the supper, said to Him; "Lord, who shall betray Thee?" And the Lord said unto me: "He that shall have dipped his hand in the dish, into him shall Satan enter. He shall betray me."

I said, "Lord, before Satan fell, in what splendor did he attend the Father?" He said: "Among the virtues of heaven and at the throne of the Father

invisible; he was regulator of all things and sat with my Father.' He [Satan] it was who presided over the virtues of the heavens and those who attended on the Father. His power descended from the heavens even unto hell, and arose even unto the throne of the Father invisible. He had wardship of those splendors which were above all the heavens. And he pondered, wishing to place his throne upon the clouds and to 'be like the Most High.'" When he had come down to lower air, he descried an angel seated upon the air, to whom he said, 'Open to me the portals of the air'; these the angels opened for him. And passing down, he descried an angel who guarded the waters, to whom he said, 'Open to me the portals of the waters'; the angel opened them to him. And descending further, he found the whole earth covered with water; walking beneath this, he came upon two fish, lying upon the waters. These, indeed, were yoked together, and they bore up the whole earth at the bidding of the Father invisible. And passing down further still, he found great clouds holding the massed waters of the sea. And descending lower, he found his hell, which is the Gehenna of fire; but thereafter he was unable to go further down, because of the flame of the fire which was raging.

"Then Satan retraced his path, filling himself with evil plots. He ascended to the angel who was over the air and to the angel who was over the waters, and unto them said: 'All things are mine. If you hearken to me, I will place my throne over the clouds and I will be like the Most High.' I will bear the waters up above this firmament and I will gather the other waters into wide seas." After that there shall not be water upon the face of the whole earth, and I shall reign with you forever and ever.' Thus he spoke to the angels. He ascended to the very heavens, even unto the third heaven, subverting the angels of the Father invisible, and saying to each of them, 'How much dost thou owe thy lord?' The first answered, 'A hundred barrels of oil.' He said to him, 'Take the bill and sit down and write fifty.' And he said to another, Now you, how much dost thou owe thy lord?' Who said, 'A hundred quarters of wheat.' To him he said, 'Take thy bill and sit down quickly and write eighty.' To the other heavens he ascended with like speech; he ascended even unto the fifth heaven, seducing the angels of the Father invisible.

"And a voice came from the throne of the Father, saying: 'What dost thou, O thou devoid of hope, subverting the angels of the Father? Contriver of sin, do quickly what thou hast planned.' Then the Father bade his angels, 'Take from all the angels who hearkened to him the garments, the thrones, and the crowns';" and these angels took the vestments, the thrones, and the crowns from all the angels who hearkened to him."

And once again I, John, questioned the Lord, saying, "When Satan fell, in what place did he dwell?" In answer He said to me: "Because of his self-exaltation, my Father decreed his transformation," withdrawing from him the light of His glory. The face of Satan was like an iron glowing from the fire, and the whole aspect of his countenance was like that of a man. . . . And he had seven tails with which he drew away the third part of the angels of God." He was cast out from before the throne of God and from the stewardship of heaven. Falling down from heaven, Satan could find no peace in this firmament, nor could those who were with him. And he besought the Father, saying: 'I have sinned. Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.' The Lord was moved with pity for him and gave him peace to do what he would until the seventh day."

"Then Satan took his seat above the firmament and gave command to the angel who was over the air and the angel who was over the waters, so that they raised two thirds of the waters high into the air. Of the remaining third they formed wide seas. The division of the waters was by command of the Father invisible. Again Satan bade the angel who was over the waters, 'Take a stand upon the two fish.' And the angel raised the earth upward with his head, and dry land appeared and was. . . . When he took a crown from the angel who was over the air, from half of it he made himself a throne; and when he took a crown from the angel who was over the waters, from half he made the light of the moon and from half the light of day. From precious stones he made fire, and from fire he made all the host of heaven and the stars, and from them he made angels, his ministering spirits, according to the plan of the Governor Most High. He also made thunder, rain, hail, and snow, and over these he set his ministering angels.

"He commanded the earth to bring forth all living things — animals, trees, and herbs. The sea he commanded to bring forth fish; and the air, birds of the heavens. And he pondered on making man to serve him; he took clay of the earth and made man like unto himself. And he then bade an angel of the second heaven to enter the body of clay. Of this body he took a part and made another body in the form of a woman" and bade an angel of the first heaven to enter into it. And the angels grieved deeply that they thus had a mortal form imposed upon them and that they now existed in different forms. And Satan bade them to perform the works of the flesh in their bodies of clay, but they did not know how to commit sin. The originator of sin accomplished his purpose by his seduction, in this way: He planted a paradise and set men therein and bade them not to eat of its fruits. The devil entered Paradise and planted a bed of reeds in the midst of Paradise; of his spittle he made a serpent and bade him remain in the



reeds. Thus the devil concealed the knowledge of his deceit so that they would not perceive his treachery. He went in to them saying, 'Eat of all the fruit in Paradise, but of the fruit of good and evil eat not.' Thereafter the wicked devil, entering into the evil serpent, deceived the angel who was in the form of a woman and poured out upon her head a longing for sin," and Eve's desire was like a glowing oven. Forthwith, the devil in the form of the serpent came out of the reeds and sated his lust on her with the serpent's tail. That is why [the offspring] are called not sons of God but sons of the devil and sons of the serpent, fulfilling the diabolic desires of their father even unto the end of the world. After this, the devil poured out his longing upon the head of the angel who was in Adam; and [both angels] were affected by a lust for debauchery, together begetting children of the devil and of the serpent, until the consummation of the world."

[4] After that I, John, questioned the Lord, saying, "Why do men say that Adam and Eve were made by God and placed in Paradise to keep His commandments, and that for transgression of the Father's commandment they were delivered up unto death?" The Lord said unto me: "Hear, John, most beloved. Men are foolish who speak thus, for my Father did not, in transgression (*in praevaricatione*) of His own law, shape bodies of clay, but by the Holy Spirit made [only] all the virtues of heaven. These, however, for their sins and by their fall are found possessing bodies of clay and are delivered up to death."

[5] And still I, John, questioned the Lord, saying, "Lord, how did man have spiritual origin in a carnal body?" And the Lord said to me: "By their fall spirits of heaven entered the female body of clay and took on flesh from the lusts of the flesh and took on [spirit at the same time]. . . . Spirit is born of spirit and flesh of flesh; and thus the reign of Satan ceases not in this world."

[6] And I questioned the Lord, saying, "For how long will Satan have dominion in this world over the essences of men?" And the Lord replied, "My Father will permit him to reign seven days, that is, seven ages."

[7] Again I, John, questioned the Lord in this wise, "What will be the nature of this period [of seven ages]?" And He said to me: "From the time when the devil fell from the glory of the Father and desired his own glory, he took his seat among the clouds and sent forth his ministers, a searing fire, and ... in the land from Adam to Enoch. And he sent his minister to Enoch and translated him above the firmament and displayed to him his divine nature. He then commanded that he be given quill and ink. Seating himself, Enoch wrote seventy-six" books; these the devil bade him to take to earth. Enoch took the books and turned them over to his sons, and he

taught them how to observe the form and place of sacrificial rites. This they did in such wise as to 'shut the kingdom of heaven against men.'<sup>o</sup> And he [the devil] said to them, 'See you that I am god and there is no other god beside me.' Wherefore my Father sent me to this world to make manifest His name to men, that they might recognize the devil and his wickedness. But when Satan learned that I had come down to this world, he sent his angel to take Three pieces of wood These he gave to the prophet Moses for my crucifixion. This wood they have kept for me until the present. And he revealed to Moses his divinity and bade him give laws to the children of Israel and lead them, on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

"When my Father thought to send me to this earth, He sent before me His angel, she who is called Mary, my mother, that she might receive me through the Holy Spirit. And when I descended, I entered and came forth through her ear. Now Satan, the prince of this world, knew that I was come to seek and 'to save that which was lost'; and he sent his angel, the prophet Elijah, who baptized in water and was called John the Baptist." Now, Elijah asked the prince of this world how he might recognize me. And the devil said to him, 'Upon Whom thou shalt see the Holy Spirit descending as a dove, and remaining upon Him, He it is that baptizeth in the Holy Spirit and with fire.' John asked this because he did not know me, but the one who sent him to baptize in water, he revealed me. John himself gave testimony: 'I baptize in water unto penance, but He baptizes you with the Holy Spirit unto the remission of sins. He it is who is able to destroy and to save.' "

[8] And again I, John, questioned the Lord, "Can man be saved through the baptism [of John?" He replied:] "Without my baptism, with which I baptize unto the remission of sins, I affirm that no one can receive salvation in God. For I am the bread of life that came down from the seventh heaven, wherefore whoso eats my flesh and drinks my blood, these shall be called the children of God."

[9] I inquired of the Lord, "What is the meaning of your 'flesh' and your 'blood'?" To me the Lord answered: "Before the devil had fallen with all the angelic host of the Father, the angels in their prayers glorified my Father by repeating this prayer, 'Our Father who art in heaven.' This chant ascended to the throne of the Father; but the angels from the time of their fall could no longer glorify God in this prayer."

[10] And again I asked the Lord, "How is it that the whole world received the baptism of John, but Thine is not accepted by all?" The Lord replied to me: "That is because their works are evil and they come not to the light."

The followers of John marry and are given in marriage, whereas my disciples marry not at all but remain as the angels of God in the heavenly kingdom."

[11] Then I said to Him, "If it is a sin to have knowledge of women, is it then unwise to marry?" And the Lord replied: "All men take not this word, but they to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who were born so from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made so by men; and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven."

[12] Afterward, I questioned the Lord about the Day of Judgment, "What shall be the sign of Thy coming?" In reply He said: "When the number of the just shall equal the number of those crowned [angels] who fell. Then shall Satan, raging mightily, be 'loosed out of his prison.' He shall war upon the just, who shall cry out to the Lord their God; forthwith the Lord God shall command the archangel to sound his trumpet, and the voice of the archangel shall go forth from the heavens and be heard even unto the nether regions. Then 'the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from' heaven.' And there shall be loosed from their foundations the four great winds; the earth, the sea, the mountains, and the hills shall tremble together. Then shall be revealed the sign of the Son, and all tribes of earth shall mourn. Immediately the heaven shall tremble and be darkened, the sun shall shine until the ninth hour. Then shall the Son of man be shown forth in his glory, and all the saints and angels with Him; they shall place their seats above the clouds. And He shall sit upon the seat of His glory, with the twelve apostles upon their twelve seats of glory. The books shall be opened, and all the peoples of the earth shall be judged." "Then shall the faith be proclaimed. Then shall the Son of man send forth His angels. They shall gather His elect from the heights even to the uttermost limits of the heavens and shall bring them, gathered into their fold, to me above the clouds, into the air." Then shall the Son of God send forth the evil demons and expel them in His wrath, together with all peoples (*linguas*) who believed in him [Satan] . . . who said, 'Let us eat, drink, and lay hold on the things of this world'; and let us see what manner of aid they shall have from those things. Forthwith all peoples shall stand in fear before the judgment [throne]. The two books shall be opened and they shall lay bare all peoples with their teaching; they shall glorify the just for their sufferings joined with good works. Glory and boundless honor shall be the reward of those who have cherished the angelic life; while the portion of the servants of iniquity shall be wrath, fury, distress, and displeasure. And the Son of man shall separate His just from the company of sinners and shall say to them,

'Come, ye blessed of my Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'; while to the sinful He shall say, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, which was prepared for the devil and his angels.' Others shall witness the final division and 'the wicked shall be turned into hell.' By the indulgence of my Father the unbelieving spirits shall at length withdraw from prison; 'they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.'

"Then, by permission of my Father, gloomy darkness shall spread over the lower regions of the earth and a hell of fire shall burn all the land from its lowest depths even unto the air of the firmament." And the Lord shall be [supreme] in the firmament even unto the nether regions of the earth. Should a man of thirty years pick up a stone and let it drop, it would scarcely strike the bottom within the space of three years, so great is the depth of the pool of fire wherein dwell the sinners. Then Satan shall be bound and all his host, and he shall be cast into the pool of fire. The Son of God, with his elect, shall walk above the firmament; and He shall shut up the devil, binding him with unbreakable bonds, with sinners weeping, wailing, and crying out 'Swallow us up, land, hide us within thyself.' Then shall the just shine as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. And Jesus shall lead them before the throne of the Father invisible and shall say to the Father, 'Behold, I and my children, whom God hath given me. Just Father, the world hath not known Thee, but I have known Thee in truth because Thou hast sent me.' And then the Father will reply to His Son, saying, 'My beloved Son, sit on my right hand, until I make thy enemies thy footstool -- thy enemies, who have denied me and said, "We are gods, and there is no other god beside us"; who killed your prophets and persecuted your just. You shall persecute them in the exterior darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

"And then the Son of God shall sit on the right hand of his Father, and the Father shall command His angels that they minister unto them [the just]; and He shall place them in the choir of angels and clothe them in imperishable raiment; and He shall give them crowns never fading and seats unmoving. And God shall be in their midst. 'They shall no more hunger nor thirst; neither shall the sun fall on them, nor any heat. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.' And [the Son] shall reign with his Holy Father, and his reign shall endure forevermore."

*[Endnote added to manuscript:]*

This is the Secret of the heretics of Concorrezzo, brought from Bulgaria by Nazarials, their bishop. It is full of errors.

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## **Interrogatio Iohannis** **(Titled in translation: *The Book of John the Evangelist*)**

*From: "The Apocryphal New Testament"*  
*M. R. James -- Translation and Notes*  
*Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1924*

*[Interrogatio Iohannis apostoli et evangelistae in cena secreta regni coelorum de ordinatione mundi istius et de principe et de Adam.]*

I, John, your brother and partaker in tribulation, and that shall be also a partaker in the kingdom of heaven, when I lay upon breast of our Lord Jesus Christ and said unto him:

Lord, who is he that shall betray thee [and] he answered and said: He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish: then Satan entered unto him and he sought how he might betray me.

And I said: Lord, before Satan fell, in what glory abode he with thy Father.

And he said unto me: In such glory was he that he commanded the powers of the heavens: but I sat with my Father, and he did order all the followers of the Father, and went down from heaven unto the deep and ascended up out of the deep unto the throne of the invisible Father. And he saw the glory of him that moveth the heavens, and he thought to set his seat above the clouds of heaven and desired to be like unto the Most High.

And when he had descended into the air, he said unto the angel of the air: Open unto me the gates of the air. And he opened them unto him. And he sought to go further downward and found the angel which held the waters, and said unto him: Open unto me the gates of the waters. And he opened to him. And he passed through and found all the face of the earth covered with waters. And he passed through beneath the earth and found two fishes lying upon the waters, and they were as oxen yoked for ploughing, holding the whole earth by the commandment of the invisible Father, from the west even unto the sunrising. And when he had gone down he found clouds hanging which held the waters of the sea. And he went down yet further and found hell, that is the gehenna of fire and thereafter he could go down no further because of the flame of the burning fire. And Satan returned back and filled up (passed over again)

the paths and entered in unto the angel of the air and to him that was over the waters, and said unto them: All these things are mine: if ye will hearken unto me, I will set my seat in the clouds and be like the Most High, and I will take the waters from this upper firmament and gather together the other parts (places) of the sea, and thereafter there shall be no water upon the face of all the earth, and I will reign with you world without end.

And when he had said thus unto the angels, he went up unto the other angels, even unto the fifth heaven, and thus spake he unto each of them: How much owest thou unto thy lord He said: An hundred measures (cors) of wheat. And he said unto him: Take pen and ink and write sixty. And unto others he said: And thou, how much owest thou unto thy lord and he answered: An hundred jars of oil. And he said: Sit down and write fifty. And as he went up through all the heavens he said thus, even unto the fifth heaven, seducing the angels of the invisible Father. And there came forth a voice out of the throne of the Father, saying: What doest thou, O denier of the Father, seducing the angels doer of iniquity, that thou hast devised do quickly.

Then the Father commanded his angels, saying: Take away their garments. And the angels took away their garments and their thrones and their crowns from all the angels that hearkened unto him.

And I asked of the Lord: When Satan fell, in what place dwelt he? And he answered me: My Father changed his appearance because of his pride, and the light was taken from him, and his face became like unto heated iron, and his face became wholly like that of a man: and he drew with his tail the third part of the angels of God, and was cast out from the seat of God and from the stewardship of the heavens. And Satan came down into this firmament, and he could find (make) no rest for himself nor for them that were with him. And he asked the Father saying: Have patience with me and I will pay thee all. And the Father had mercy on him and gave him rest and them that were with him, as much as they would even unto seven days.

And so sat he in the firmament and commanded the angel that was over the air and him that was over the waters, and they raised the earth up and it appeared dry: and he took the crown of the angel that was over the waters, and of the half thereof he made the light of the moon and of the half the light of the stars: and of the precious stones he made all the hosts of the stars.

And thereafter he made the angels his ministers according to the order of the form of the Most High, and by the commandment of the invisible Father he made thunder, rain, hail, and snow.

And he sent forth angels to be ministers over them. And he commanded the earth to bring forth every beast for food (fatling), and every creeping thing, and trees and herbs: and he commanded the sea to bring forth fishes, and the fowls of the heaven.

And he devised furthermore and made man in his likeness, and commanded the (or an) angel of the third heaven to enter into the body of clay. And he took thereof and made another body in the form of a woman, and commanded the (or an) angel of the second heaven to enter into the body of the woman. But the angel lamented when they beheld a mortal shape upon them and that they were unlike in shape. And he commanded them to do the deed of the flesh in the bodies of clay, and they knew not how to commit sin.

Then did the contriver of evil devise in his mind to make paradise, and he brought the man and woman into it. And he Commanded to bring a reed, and the devil planted it in the midst of paradise, and so did the wicked devil hide his device that they knew not his deceit. And he came in and spake unto them, saying: Of every fruit which is in paradise eat ye, but of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil eat not. Notwithstanding, the devil entered into a wicked serpent and seduced the angel that was in the form of the woman, and he wrought his lust with Eve in the Song of the serpent. And therefore are they called sons of the devil and sons of the serpent that do the lust of the devil their father, even unto the end of this world. And again the devil poured out upon the angel that was in Adam the poison of his lust, and it begetteth the sons of the serpent and the sons of the devil even unto the end of this world.

And after that I, John, asked of the Lord, saying: How say men that Adam and Eve were created by God and set in paradise to keep the commandments of the Father, and were delivered unto death And the Lord said to me: Hearken, John, beloved of my Father; foolish men say thus in their deceitfulness that my Father made bodies of clay: but by the Holy Ghost made he all the powers of the heavens, and holy ones were found having bodies of clay because of their transgression, and therefore were delivered unto death.

And again I, John, asked the Lord: How beginneth a man to be in the Spirit (to have a spirit) in a body of flesh And the Lord said unto me: Certain of the angels which fell do enter unto the bodies of women, and

receive flesh from the lust of the flesh, and so is a spirit born of spirit, and flesh of flesh, and so is the kingdom of Satan accomplished in this world and among all nations.

And he said to me: My Father hath suffered him to reign seven days, which are seven ages.

And I asked the Lord and said: What shall be in that time And he said to me: From the time when the devil fell from the glory of the Father and (lost) his own glory, he sat upon the clouds, and sent his ministers, even angels flaming with fire, unto men from Adam even unto Henoah his servant. And he raised up Henoah upon the firmament and showed him his godhead and commanded pen and ink to be given him: and he sat down and wrote threescore and seven books. And he commanded that he should take them to the earth and deliver them unto his sons. And Henoah let his books down upon the earth and delivered them unto his sons, and began to teach them to perform the custom of sacrifice, and unrighteous mysteries, and so did he hide the kingdom of heaven from men. And he said unto them: Behold that I am your god and beside me is none other god. And therefore did my Father send me into the world that I might make it known unto men, that they might know the evil device of the devil.

And then when he perceived that I had come down out of heaven into the world, he sent an angel and took of three sorts of wood and gave them unto Moses that I might be crucified, and now are they reserved for me. But then (now) did the devil proclaim unto him (Moses) his godhead, and unto his people, and commanded a law to be given unto the children of Israel, and brought them out through the midst of the sea which was dried up.

When my Father thought to send me into the world, he sent his angel before me, by name Mary, to receive me. And I when I came down entered in by the ear and came forth by the ear.

And Satan the prince of this world perceived that I was come to seek and save them that were lost, and sent his angel, even Helias the prophet, baptizing with water: who is called John the Baptist. And Helias asked the prince of this world: How can I know him Then his lord said: On whom soever thou shalt see the spirit descending like a dove and resting upon him, he it is that baptizeth with the Holy Ghost unto forgiveness of sins: thou wilt be able to destroy him and to save. And again I, John, asked the Lord: Can a man be saved by the baptism of John without thy baptism And the Lord answered: Unless I have baptized him unto forgiveness of



sins, by the baptism of water can no man see the kingdom of heaven: for I am the bread of life that came down from the seventh heaven and they that eat my flesh and drink my blood, they shall be called the sons of God.

And I asked the Lord and said: What meaneth it, to eat my flesh and drink my blood (An answer and question seem to have fallen out.) And the Lord said unto me: Before the falling of the devil with all his host from the glory of the Father [in prayer], they did glorify the Father in their prayers thus, saying: Our Father, which art in heaven; and so did all their songs come up before the throne of the Father. But when they had fallen, after that they are not able to glorify God with that prayer.

And I asked the Lord: How do all men receive the baptism of John, but thine not at all And the Lord answered: Because their deeds are evil and they come not unto the light.

The disciples of John marry and are given in marriage; but my disciples neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But I said: If, then, it be sin to have to do with a woman, it is not good to marry. And the Lord said unto me: Not every one can receive this saying (&c., Matt. xix.11, 12).

I asked the Lord concerning the day of judgement: What shall be the sign of thy coming And he answered and said unto me: When the numbers of the righteous shall be accomplished that is, the number of the righteous that are crowned, that have fallen, then shall Satan be loosed out of his prison, having great wrath, and shall make war with the righteous, and they shall cry unto the Lord with a loud voice. And immediately the Lord shall command an angel to blow with the trumpet, and the voice of the archangel shall be heard in the trumpet from heaven even unto hell.

And then shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall, and the four winds shall be loosed from their foundations, and shall cause the earth and the sea and the mountains to quake together. And the heaven shall immediately shake and the sun shall be darkened, and it shall shine even to the fourth hour. Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man, and all the holy angels with him, and he shall set his seat upon the clouds, and sit on the throne of his majesty with the twelve apostles on the twelve seats of their glory. And the books shall be opened and he shall judge the whole world and the faith which he proclaimed. And then shall the Son of man send his angels, and they shall gather his elect from the four winds from the heights of the heavens unto the boundaries of them, and shall bring them to seek.

Then shall the Son of God send the evil spirits, to bring all nations before him, and shall say unto them: Come, ye that did say: We have eaten and drunk and received the gain of this world. And after that they shall again be brought, and shall all stand before the judgement seat, even all nations, in fear. And the books of life shall be opened and all nations shall show forth their ungodliness. And he shall glorify the righteous for their patience: and glory and honour and incorruption shall be the reward of their good works: but as for them that kept the commandments of the angels and obeyed unrighteously, indignation and trouble and anguish shall take hold on them.

And the Son of God shall bring forth the elect out of the midst of the sinners and say unto them: Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Then shall he say unto the sinners: Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, which was prepared for the devil and his angels. And the rest, beholding the last cutting off, shall cast the sinners into hell by the commandment of the invisible Father. Then shall the spirits of them that believe not go forth out of the prisons, and then shall my voice be heard, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd: and the darkness and obscurity shall come forth out of the lower parts of the earth -that is to say, the darkness of the gehenna of fire- and shall burn all things from below even to the air of the firmament. And the Lord shall be in the firmament and even to the lower parts of the earth. (read And the distance from the firmament unto the lower parts of the earth shall be) as if a man of thirty years old should take up a stone and cast it down, hardly in three years would it reach the bottom: so great is the depth of the pit and of the fire wherein the sinners shall dwell. And then shall Satan and all his host be bound and cast into the lake of fire. And the Son of God shall walk with his elect above the firmament and shall shut up the devil, binding him with strong chains that cannot be loosed. At that time the sinners, weeping and mourning, shall say: O earth, swallow us up and cover us in death. And then shall the righteous shine as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. And he shall bring them before the throne of the invisible Father, saying: Behold, I and my children whom God hath given me. O righteous one, the world hath not known thee, but I have known thee in truth, because thou hast sent me. And then shall the Father answer his Son and say: My beloved Son, sit thou on my right hand until I make thine enemies the footstool of thy feet, which have denied me and said: We are gods, and beside us there is none other god: which have slain thy prophets and persecuted thy righteous ones, and thou hast persecuted them even unto the outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

And then shall the Son of God sit on the right hand of his Father, and the Father shall command his angels, and they shall minister unto them (i.e. the righteous) and set them among the choirs of the angels, to clothe them with incorruptible garments, and shall give them crowns that fade not and seats that cannot be moved. And God shall be in the midst of them; and they shall not hunger nor thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them nor any heat. And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes. And he shall reign with his holy Father, and of his kingdom there shall be no end for ever and ever.

## The Vision of Isaiah

### Editorial Notes

This is an apocalyptic ("visionary") work of great antiquity and unquestioned authenticity, probably dating to before the second century; it manifests early Gnostic Christian influence. It was apparently known to some early Christian writers; Jerome and Epiphanius both quote sections of the text. The *Vision of Isaiah* was possessed by the Bogomils in the twelfth century and had reached the Languedoc in a Latin translation by the early thirteenth century. Cathar possession and use of the *Vision of Isaiah* is very well attested and witnesses both their access to transmissions of early Christian writings from the East, and their identification with traditions of Christianity that had preserved and honored these writings. Cathars probably valued this text not only because it seemingly supported their theology, but also because it gives testament to a primary and Gnostic visionary experience.

*The Vision of Isaiah* is known to be part of a larger compilation of texts collectively called the *Ascension of Isaiah*. The *Vision* is an "ascension text" -- recounting Isaiah's visionary journey through the seven heavens to the Throne of God. It bears comparison to the Enoch and Merkabah literature of the first century (for example, compare the Merkabah vision text found among the Dead Sea Scrolls). The section in Chapter 4 speaking of the "Robe of Glory" recalls the vision of the "Robe of Glory" found in the *Acts of Thomas*.

Six manuscripts of *The Vision of Isaiah* survive in various European languages, the earliest from the twelfth century. This version of the text is based on the translation in Walter L. Wakefield and Austin P. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages* (2 ed., New York: Columbia University Press, 1991), p. 449ff. The text given here contains minor corrections, rephrasing and general reformatting of the versification.

## The Vision of Isaiah

### Chapter 1

The vision which Isaiah, the son of Amos, saw in the twentieth year of the reign of Hezekiah, king of Judah:

Isaiah the prophet, son of Amos, came to Hezekiah in Jerusalem; and after he had come in, he sat down upon the king's couch. And all the princes of Israel and the counselors of the king and the eunuchs stood before him. And the prophets and the sons of prophets came from the villages and the fields and the mountains to salute him, when they learned that Isaiah had come from Gilgal, and to announce to him those things that were to come. Then as he was speaking words of truth; the Holy Spirit came upon him and all saw and heard the words of the Holy Spirit.

The king summoned the prophets, and all entered together, as many as were found there. Now there were the aged Micah and Ananiah, Joel, and as many of them as were found there, on his right hand and on the left. However, when they heard the voice of the Holy Spirit they fell to their knees and sang to the Highest God, who rests among the holy ones. Who bestowed such power of words in the world.

Now, as he was speaking in the Holy Spirit in the hearing of all, he fell silent, and thereupon they saw one standing before him. His [Isaiah's] eyes were open, yet his mouth was closed, but the inspiration of the Spirit was with him. And they did not think that Isaiah had been exalted, but the prophets recognized that it was a revelation. The vision which he saw was not of this world but of what is hidden from all flesh. And when he ceased to behold the vision, he returned to himself and recounted the vision to Hezekiah and his son Nason ... *(continuing in next chapter)*

### Chapter II

... And to Micah and the other prophets, saying, "When I prophesied what you heard, which you witnessed, I saw an angel, glorious not with the glory of the angels whom I have always seen, but having a particularly great glory and a light which I cannot describe.

Taking me by the hand he led me on high, and I said, 'Who are you, and what is your name, and why are you lifting me up like a bird?' -- for the ability to speak to him was given me. Then in answer he said to me,

'When I shall bear you on high I will show you the vision which is the purpose for which I have been sent; then you will know who I am, but my name you do not know, because you wish to return again to your body. And when I raise you on high hereafter you will see.'

And I rejoiced because he answered me softly. And he said to me, 'You have rejoiced because I replied gently to you, and you will see one greater than I am wishing to speak to thee; one gentler and wiser, better and sweeter; for to this end was I sent, to explain all things to thee.'

And we ascended, he and I, upon the firmament, and there I saw the great battle of Satan and his might opposing the loyal followers (*honorantiae*) of God, and one surpassed the other in envy. For just as it is on earth, so also is it in the firmament, because replicas of what are in the firmament are on earth.

And I said to the angel, 'What is this war and envy and struggle?' And in reply he said to me, 'This is the devil's war and he will not rest until He whom you wish to see comes to slay him with the spirit of His virtue.'

Thereafter, he raised me into that which is above the firmament, which is the first heaven. And I saw in the midst thereof a throne on which an angel was seated in great glory, and angels sat at his right and his left. Those on the right had a special glory, and they sang with one voice; and those who were on the left sang after them but their song was not like that of the ones on the right. And I questioned the angel who conducted me: 'To whom is this song raised?' And in reply he said to me, 'To the great glory of God, who is above the seventh heaven, and to His beloved Son, from whom I was sent to thee.'

And again he raised me up, into the second heaven; its height was the same as that of the first heaven above earth. And I saw there, just as in the first heaven, angels on the right and on the left. And the glory of these angels and their song were superior to those of the first heaven. And I fell on my face to adore him," and the angel, who guided me said to me, 'Adore not the angel nor the throne of this heaven. This is the reason why I was sent to guide you; adore Him only of whom I will tell you, and in like fashion adore Him who is above all angels, above thrones, and above the garments and crowns which you shall see hereafter.' And I rejoiced with exceeding great joy, for such is the consummation for those who know the Most High and Eternal and His beloved Son, because they ascend to Them as by the angel of the Holy Spirit.

And he raised me above the third heaven and in like manner I saw a small throne and angels on the right and the left. The memory of this world, however, was given no name there. But the glory of my spirit was undergoing a transformation as I ascended into heaven and I said, 'Nothing of that world is given a name here.' And in reply the angel said to me, 'Nothing is given a name on account of its weakness and nothing is hidden of the things which are done there.' And they sang a song and glorified him who was enthroned, and this angel was greater than the second angel.

And again he raised me, unto the fourth heaven. The height from the third to the fourth heaven was greater. And I saw a throne and angels on the right hand and on the left. But the glory of him who was enthroned was greater than that of the angels on the right hand and their glory likewise surpassed the glory of those who were below.

And I ascended into the fifth heaven, and there I saw innumerable angels and their glory, and their song was more glorious than that of the fourth heaven. And I marveled, beholding such a multitude of angels arrayed in the ranks of their diverse goodnesses; each, having his own glory, glorified Him who is on high (Whose name is not revealed to all flesh), because He gave so much glory to the angels who are above each heaven.

But in reply the angel said to me, 'Why are you astonished that they are not all of one appearance? You have not yet seen the insuperable virtues and the thousands and thousands of angels.'

### **Chapter III**

And thereafter he raised me into the air of the sixth heaven and I saw there a great glory which I had not seen in the fifth heaven. And I beheld angels in great glory. And the deeds of the virtues were honorable and pre-eminent; their song was holy and wonderful. And I said to the angel who guided me, 'What is it that I see, my lord?' And he said to me, 'I am not your lord but your counselor.'

And he spoke to me about the sixth heaven. Herein are neither throne nor angels on the left, but they receive their direction from the virtue of the seventh heaven, where dwells the mighty Son of God. And all the heavens and His angels hearken to Him, and I have been sent to bring you hither, so that you may see this glory and the Lord of all the heavens and His angels and virtues. Therefore, I say to you, Isaiah, no one who desires to

return to the flesh of that world has seen what you see nor is able to see what you have seen; because it is your lot in the Lord to come here.' And I magnified the Lord in song because thus I go into His lot.

And he [the angel] said to me, 'When you shall have returned here through the will of the Father, then you will receive your garment, and then you will be equal to the angels who are in the seventh heaven.' And he led me into the sixth heaven, and neither thrones nor angels on the right and the left were there, but all had one appearance and identical song. And it was given me to sing with them; and the angel who was with me and I, myself, were even as their glory, and their glory was one. And they glorified the Father of all and His beloved Son and the Holy Spirit; all with one voice they sang, but not with a voice such as that of the fifth heaven, but with a different voice.

And there was a great light there. And when I was in the sixth heaven I thought the light of the fifth heaven to be as darkness. I rejoiced greatly and sang to Him who gave such joy to those who received His mercy. And I begged the angel who guided me never more to return into that carnal world. Moreover, I say unto you that here is much darkness.

But the angel who guided me said to me, 'Since you rejoice in this light, how much more will you rejoice and exult when you see the light of the seventh heaven, in which sits the Heavenly Father with His only begotten Son; where lie the vestments and the thrones and the crowns of the righteous. And as to your plea not to return into your flesh, the time is not yet fulfilled for your coming here.' And I sorrowed greatly at hearing these words.

#### **Chapter IV**

And he raised me up into the air of the seventh heaven and I heard a voice saying to me, 'Why do you who desire to live in the flesh come here?' And I was very much afraid and trembled. Again, I heard another voice saying, 'Forbid him not to, come in, since he is worthy of the glory of God, for here is his robe. And I questioned the angel who was with me, 'Who is he who forbids me, and who is he who bids me come up?'

And he said to me, 'The one who forbids is he, the angel who is above the angels singing in the sixth heaven; and He who commands is the Son of God, and His name you may not hear until you have departed from the flesh.'



When we ascended into the seventh heaven I saw' there an astounding and indescribable light and innumerable angels. And I saw certain of the righteous who, stripped of fleshly robes, were in heavenly robes and standing in great glory. But they sat not on their thrones; moreover, their crowns of glory were not upon them.

And I questioned the angel, saying, 'Why have they received robes, and why have they not received thrones and crowns of glory?' And he said to me, Now they receive them not, until the Son first brings here those thrones and crowns, when He shall be in your likeness.' And the prince of that world will stretch forth his hand upon the Son of God and will kill Him and hang Him on a tree, and he will kill Him not knowing who He is. And He will descend into hell and will lay it waste, with all the phantoms of hell. And He will seize the prince of death and despoil him, and crush all his powers, and will rise again on the third day; having with him certain of the righteous. And He will send His preachers into the whole world, and will ascend into heaven. Then these will receive their thrones and crowns.'

And after [he said] these words, I said to him, 'In regard to that which I asked you in the first heaven, show me, for this you promised.' And as I was addressing him, there was among those standing about us one angel, more glorious than he who conducted me and than all the angels. And he showed me a book, and opening it, gave it to me; and I saw writing which was not like that of this world. And I read it, and lo, there were the deeds of Jerusalem recorded there, and the works of all men were there, among whom also was I. I saw in truth that nothing which was done in the world was hidden in the seventh heaven.

And I questioned the angel, 'Who is this who is pre-eminent over all the angels in his glory?' And in reply to me he said, 'He is the great angel, Michael, who prays constantly for humanity and humility.' I saw many robes and thrones and crowns lying there. And I said to the angel, 'For whom are these robes and crowns and thrones reserved?' And he said to me, 'Many of that world lost these crowns, who are believers in the world of Him of whom I have spoken to you.'

And, turning about, I saw the Lord in great glory and I was most sorely afraid. And all the righteous approached Him and adored Him singing with one voice and [my] voice was like unto theirs. And Michael, approaching Him, adored and together with him all the angels adored and sang. And I was again transfigured and was like the angels.

Then the angel who conducted me said to me, 'Adore Him and sing.' And I adored Him and sang. And the angel who conducted me said to me, 'He is the Lord of all the glories which you have seen.' And I saw another most glorious one, like unto Him in all things, and the righteous approached Him and adored Him and sang, and I sang with them and I was not transfigured into their aspect. And the angels came with them and adored Him, and I adored Him and sang.

And again, I saw the other in great glory. And while walking, I questioned the angel, 'Who is He?' And he said to me, 'Adore Him, for he is the angel of the Holy Spirit, who speaks in you , and in all the righteous.'

And after that, another indescribable and ineffable glory was revealed which I could not behold with the opened eyes of my spirit, nor could the angel who conducted me nor all the angels whom I saw adoring the Lord. But I saw the righteous only in great glory beholding [His] glory. And my Lord approached first and then the angel of the Holy Spirit (*angelus spiritualis*). And they adored Him and the two sang together. Then all the righteous adored Him, and with them Michael and all the angels adored and sang.

## Chapter V

Thereafter I heard a voice there and the song which I heard in the six heavens rose up and was heard in the seventh heaven. And all glorified Him whose glory I could not behold. And the song of all six heavens was not only heard but seen. And the angel said to me, 'He is the One Living Eternal, living in the highest eternity and resting among the holy ones; we cannot endure to name or see Him who is praised by the Holy Spirit in the mouths of the holy [and] righteous.

And after that, I heard the voice of the Eternal saying to the Lord [His] Son: 'Go forth and descend from all the heavens and be in the world, and go even to the angel who is in hell; transfiguring thyself into their form. And neither the angels nor the princes of that world shall know thee. And thou shalt judge the prince of that world and his angels, and the rulers of the world, because they have denied me and said, "We are and without us there is no one." Thereafter, thou shalt not transfigure thyself as thou ascendest through the heavens in great glory, and thou wilt sit at my right hand. Then the princes and the virtues and all the angels and all the principalities of the heavens and of earth and of the lower regions will adore thee.'

And I heard the Great Glory commanding my Lord. And then the Lord went out from the seventh heaven and descended into the sixth heaven. And the angel who guided me said to me, 'Understand and see the manner of His transfiguration and descent.'

When the angels saw Him, they praised and glorified Him, for He was not transfigured into their image, and I sang with them. When He had descended into the fifth heaven, there at once He was transfigured into the form of those angels and they did not sing to Him or adore Him, for He was of a form like theirs.

And He descended into the fourth heaven and appeared to them in their form. And they did not sing to Him for He was of a form like theirs.

Moreover, He came into the third heaven," and into the second and the first, transfiguring Himself in each of them. Consequently, they did not sing to Him or adore Him, for He appeared to them in [a form] like theirs. And He showed them a sign (*characterem*).

Moreover, He descended into the firmament and there gave the signs (*signa*), and His form was like unto theirs, and they did not glorify Him and they did not sing to Him. And He descended to the angels who were in this air as though He were one of them. And He gave them no sign, nor did they sing to Him.

## Chapter VI

And after these things, the angel said to me, 'Know, Isaiah, son of Amos, this is why I was sent by God to show you all things. For no one before you has seen nor can anyone after you see what you have seen and heard.'

And I saw one like the Son of Man dwelling with men and in the world. And they did not recognize Him. And I saw Him ascending into the firmament and He was not transfigured into [their] form. And all the angels who were above the firmament were struck with fear at the sight and, adoring, they said, 'How didst Thou descend into our midst, Lord, and we did not recognize the King of Glory?'

And He ascended into the first heaven more gloriously and did not transfigure Himself. Then all the angels adored and sang, saying, 'How didst Thou pass through our midst, Lord, and we did not see or adore Thee?'

Thus He ascended into the second heaven and into the third and into the fourth and into the fifth and into the sixth, even to all the heavens, and His glories increased. When He ascended into the seventh heaven, all the righteous sang to him, and all the angels and virtues whom I could not see.

I saw a wonderful angel sit at His left hand, who said to me: 'This suffices you, Isaiah, for you have seen what no other son of the flesh has seen, which eyes cannot see nor ears hear, nor can it rise in the heart of man, how much God has prepared for all who love Him.'

And he said to me, 'Return in your robe until the time of your days shall be fulfilled and then you shall come here.'

Having seen these things, Isaiah spoke to those standing about him; and, hearing these wonders, all sang and glorified the Lord, who gave such grace to men.

And he said to Hezekiah the king, "The consummation of this world and works will be fulfilled in the last generations." And he forbade them to proclaim these words to the children of Israel or to give them to any man to be recorded. But how many things will be understood by the king and by the utterances in the prophets! And thus be you also in the Holy Spirit, so that you may receive your robes and thrones and crowns of glory placed in the heavens.

He ceased then to speak and went out from King Hezekiah.

*Cathar Ritual (Lyon Ritual)*  
(Manuscript: Lyon, Bibliothèque municipale, PA 36)

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## Editorial Notes

The complete edition of the *Cathar Ritual (Lyon Ritual)* with text and notes is now available in [a very fine online presentation at Rialto](#). We have archived this very important edition here, and express our gratitude and respect to the original editors. The version presented here has some minor changes in text formatting from the original online version at Rialto. Extensive notes to the text and translation are available in the original [online edition at Rialto](#). (Note that a another separate manuscript of the Ritual in Latin is also extant.)

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## **Cathar Ritual (Lyon Ritual)** **Manuscript: Lyon, Bibliothèque municipale, PA 36**

### Foreword to the Cathar Ritual

This Occitan Cathar ritual is appended to the New Testament in ms. Palais des Arts 36, Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon (ff. 325v-241v). The dialect of both texts is Languedocian though the language of the ritual diverges somewhat from that of the N.T., especially as regards a sprinkling of Italianisms, most notably in the Servissi. The manuscript was probably copied in northern Italy around the middle of the first half of 14th century; see Harris 1987, 2004. E. Cunitz's 1852 edition of the Ritual, difficult to find today, is of little value. His many erroneous readings are excluded from the apparatus here, but Léon Clédat gives a number of them in the notes to his 1887 edition, reprinted in 1968. Thouzellier transcribed in 1977, using Clédat's photolithographic reproduction, the Latin texts of the Pater noster and verses 1.1-17 of the Prologue to the Gospel of John that Clédat had not included in his edition. Jean Duvernoy's 1977 somewhat rough edition of the entire Ritual remained unpublished until 2001 when it was posted online as a PDF file. Regrettably, the digital text suffers from an abundance of data entry errors, as yet uncorrected in May 2005. Due to its present condition, Duvernoy's readings are only selectively chosen for the apparatus. Thouzellier sometimes repeats errors picked up from

Dondaine and both tend to perpetuate Clédat's incorrect or questionable readings.

### Editorial procedures:

The present edition for Rialto has profited from the use of good quality digitized color images of the ritual. For example, high magnification permits the reconstruction of the missing words in the long blank space in Clédat's reproduction (p. 481b26, ms. 241b); see note 6.34. A searchable preliminary digital transcription of the complete New Testament has also been of great value for the study of linguistic peculiarities in the Ritual.



Paragraph indentation corresponds to the scribe's large decorated initials, those for the Prologue to John and for the Servissi being distinctly large. Roman numerals plus titles for the six sections as well as folio numbers with column lettering (a, b recto; c, d verso) and verse numbering for John's Prologue have been added. Sentence numbering in brackets has also been added to facilitate referencing; italicized numbers point the reader to the apparatus. Latin text is italicized. Biblical citations, a list of which follows the apparatus, are in boldface type. A major innovation separates this edition from earlier ones, namely, the rigorous resolution of the scribe's two distinct styles of abbreviated nasals, one as a wavy titulus (~) for m and the other as a straight titulus (-) for n. Ms. clusters -mt- and -md- replacing ancestral -nt- and -nd- are therefore kept; cf. *grande* for *grande* in a 14th-century Italian praise hymn (l. 15), *La dona del pareyso*, by a Piedmontese brother, Columba da Vinchio. Though the glide -p- in ms. *imptemtionem* (1.11) offers proof for the pronunciation [m] < [n] before [t] in sentence phonetics, it is suppressed here for lexical neatness; cf. in word phonetics *memta* (432) in which [m] is noted as a wavy titulus. Another striking feature preserved here, because of its frequency in ms. PA 36, is the missing n expected in the traditional clusters -nt-, -nd- and -nc-, -ng-; cf. *pregan* for *pregnan* (6.26). Emendation is kept to a minimum, though the reconstruction of an extended piece of text assumed to have been lost in sentence 5.10 constitutes a major exception to that conservative stance; see the details

in Harris 1984. Subjective differences in capitalization do not appear in the apparatus. Only significant divergences in sentence division and the resulting required punctuation appear in the apparatus; cf. 3.36. The scribe's Roman numerals are retained whereas Clédât rewrites most of them as words. The single case of fully written oracio (2.14) has determined the resolution of the abbreviated forms despite the prevalence of orazo over oracio in the N.T. in the rare cases where they are written in full. As regards other resolutions of abbreviations, Occ. Crist is preferred over Christ because of cr- in crestia. Lat. Iesus, Christus and Iohannes are resolved according to the Stuttgart Vulgate. Resolved Occ. Lat. and Occ. gracia instead of gratia is supported by Lat. gr̄asiam (6.41). The root sant- written in full in Lat. santus (1.3) and six other cases of sant- accounts for the spelling without -c- in the four abbreviations scm (twice), scs, sce + superscript line despite its presence in fully written sanctificetur (1.6) and sanctum (1.14). Occitan derivatives of Lat. SANCT- are most often abbreviated as .S. + superscript line in ms. PA 36. That abbreviation is resolved here as sg. sant before vowels and as in sante for sant e and sant avangeli (2.16) despite N.T. hom sanh e just (p. 72b21) with sanh written in full. It is likewise resolved as sg. sanh before consonants as in 1Th 5.26 el sanh baizar (p. 423a21) where it is written in full. The abbreviated masculine predicate adjective is likewise developed thus in es sanh (3.28); cf. 1Co 3.18 es sanhs (p. 356b13). The prevocalic plural objective case in sanhs Av/angelis (2.2) follows Lu 9. 26 san/hs angels (p. 122a18/19); the subjective case in li sanh a | postol (2.6) is conjectural for the lack of a parallel. Occ. fem. sg. santa for all ten cases of abbreviated sca + superscript line is supported by Jude 20 santa (p. 330a11). Cl's -i- in aia/-tz, deiatz, merceneiar, and autreiar (but batejat/-z, batejara; cf. bategi, bategec) is written here as -j-. Lat. iusticia is preferred to Clédât's iusticia. Tironian 7 is developed as Lat. and Occ. et. The hyphen in mas-emposetio denotes a noun + noun compound calqued on manus impositio; see Harris 2004, 234-235. The suppression for typographic neatness of the second running title servisi (236c) causes no loss of linguistic data inasmuch as ms. seruisci (236a23) and seruisci (236c25) also register the form with -s- versus -ss- in servissi (T.2).

### Translations:

Clédât's French translation (pp. [IX]-XXVI) essentially supplied, with very few modifications, is the source for Nelli and Lavaud's text (also without the opening Latin text) and Nelli's slightly reworked Servi.

The complete Occitan text has been translated into English by Wakefield and Evans who acknowledge Clédât's French text as their source and into Italian by Zambon whose text shows signs of reliance on Clédât's interpretations. Those two versions perpetuate some of Clédât's mistranslations.

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## *Cathar Ritual (ms. Lyon, Bibl. mun., PA 36)*

### **[I. Liturgical Latin Phrases]**

- [1.1] /235c/ *Benedicite, parcite nobis, amen.*
- [1.2] *Fiat nobis secundum verbum tuum.*
- [1.3] *Pater et Filius et Spiritus Sanctus parcat vobis omnia peccata vestra.*
- [1.4] *Adhoremus Patrem et Filium et Spiritum Santum.*
- [1.5] *III vegadas.*
- [1.6] *Pater noster qui es in celis, sanctificetur nomen tuum.*
- [1.7] *Adveniat regnum tuum.*
- [1.8] *Fiat voluntas tua sicut in celo et in terra.*
- [1.9] *Panem nostrum supersubstancialem da nobis hodie.*
- [1.10] *Et dimitte nobis debita nostra, sicut et nos dimit[t]imus debitoribus nostris.*
- [1.11] *E ne nos inducas in temptationem, sed libera nos a*
- [1.12] *Quoniam tuum est regnum et virtus et gloria in secula.*
- [1.13] *Amen.*
- [1.14] *Adhoremus Patrem et Filium et Spiritum Sanctum.*
- [1.15] *III vegadas.*



[1.16] *Gracia domini nostri Iesu Christi sit cum omnibus nobis.*

[1.17] *Benedicite, parcite nobis, amen.*

[1.18] *Fiat nobis secundum verbum tuum.*

[1.19] *Pater et Filius et Spiritus Sanctus parcat vobis omnia peccata vestra.*  
/235d/

### [T.1] Iohannes

[1.20] <sup>1</sup>*In principio erat Verbum, et Verbum erat apud Deum, et Deus erat Verbum.*

[1.21] <sup>2</sup>*Hoc erat in princi[pi]o apud Deum.*

[1.22] <sup>3</sup>*Omnia per ipsum facta sunt, et sine ipso factum est nichil.*

[1.23] *Quod factum est* <sup>4</sup>*in ip[s]o, vita erat, et vita erat lux hominum.*

[1.24] <sup>5</sup>*Et lux in tenebris lucet, et tenebre eam non comprehenderunt.*

[1.25] <sup>6</sup>*Fuit homo missus a Deo, cui nomen erat Iohannes.*

[1.26] <sup>7</sup>*Hic venit in testimonium, ut testimonium perhiberet de lumine, ut omnes crederet per illum.*

[1.27] <sup>8</sup>*Non erat ille lux, sed ut testimonium perhiberet de lumine.*

[1.28] <sup>9</sup>*Erat lux vera, que illuminat ho[m]nem hominem venientem in hunc mundum.*

[1.29] <sup>10</sup>*In mundo erat, et mundus per ipsum factus est, et mundus eum non cognovit.*

[1.30] <sup>11</sup>*In propria venit, et sui eum non receperunt.*

[1.31] <sup>12</sup>*Quotquot autem receperunt eum, dedit eis potestatem filios Dei fieri, his qui credunt in nomine eius,* <sup>13</sup>*qui non ex sanguinibus, neque ex voluntate carnis, /236a/ neque ex voluntate viri, sed ex Deo nati sunt.*

[1.32] <sup>14</sup>*Et Verbum caro factum est, et abitavit in nobis, et vidimus gloriam eius, gloriam quasi unigeniti a Patre plenum gratie et veritatis.*

[1.33] <sup>15</sup>*Iohannes testimonium peribet de ipso, et clamabat dicens: Hic est, quem dixi: Qui pos me venturus est, ante me factus est, qui[a] prior me erat.*

[1.34] <sup>16</sup>*Et de plenitudine eius nos omnes accepimus gratiam pro gracia.*

[1.35] <sup>17</sup>*Quia lex per Moysen data est, gracia e veritas per Iesum Christum facta est.*

## [II. Service]

### [T.2] Servissi

[2.1] Nos em vengut denant Deu, e denant vos, e denant l'azordenament de santa Gleisa per recebre servi, e perdo, e penedensia de tuit li nostri pecat li qual avem fait, ni dig, ni pessatz, ni obratz del nostre naissement entro fin a-/236b/ora; e quirem misericordia a Deu et a vos, que vos preguetz per nos lo Paire sanh de misericordia que nos perdo.

[2.2] Adorem Deu e manifestem tuit li nostre pecat e las nostras moutas greus ofensios az esgardament del Paire e del Fil e de l'onorat Sant Esperit, e dels onoratz sanhs Avangelis, e dels onoratz sanhs Apostols per la Oracio, e per la fe, e per la salvatio de tuit li dreiturers gloriosses crestias, e dels bonauratz durmentz ancesors, e dels fraires enaviro estant, e denant vos, sanh Senhor, que nos perdonetz tot ço en que nos pequem.

[2.3] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.4] Quar moutz so les nostres pecatz els quals nos ofendem a minca dia, per nuit e per dia, en paraula, et en obra, e segon cossirer, ab voluntat e senes voluntat, e plus per la nostra volotat, la qual denant nos aportan les malignes esperitz en las carns que vestem.

[2.5] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.6] Mais aissi cum la santa Paraula de Deu nos essenha, e li sanh a-/236c/postol e li nostri frairi esperital nos o anoncian, que nos degitem tot desirer de la carn, e tota lagesa, e fazam la voluntat de Deu el perfeit Ben cumplit.

[2.7] Mais noi serve[n] [n]ualhos no fazem solament la voluntat de Deu enaissi cum se covengra, mais sovendeirament azomplem li desirer de la carn en las curas seglars, si c'als nostres esperitz nozem.

[2.8] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.9] Cum la gent mondana andam, cum lor essem estam, e parlam, e majam, e de moutas causas ofendem, si qu'als nostres fraires et als nostres esperitz nozem.

[2.10] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.11] De las nostras lengas cazem em paraulas ossiossas, en vas parlamentz, en ris, en esquers, e malesas, en retrazement de fraires e de serors dels quals nos no em digne de jujar ni de cumdampnar li ofendement dels fraires e de las seros.

[2.12] Entre ls crestias estam pecadors.

[2.13] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.14] Lo servi que receubem, no l ga[r]dem aissi cum se covengra, lo /236d/ dejuni ni la Oracio; nostres dias traspassem, nostras oras pervericam; nos estant en la santa Oracio, nostre sen se desvia els desirers carnals, en las curas seglars, si que en aquela ora a penas sabem qual causa ufrem al Paire dels justz.

[2.15] *Benedicite, parcit[e] nobis.*

[2.16] O tu, sant e bo Senhor, totas aquelas causas que a nos endevengro al nostre sen et al nostre cosirer, a tu las manifestam, sanh Senhor, e tota la moutesa dels pecatz pausam en la misericordia de Deu, et en la santa Oracio, et en lo sant Avangeli.

[2.17] Quar moutz so los nostres pecatz.

[2.18] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.19] O Senhor, juja e cumdapna los vises de la carn.

[2.20] No ajas merce de la carn nada de corruptio, mais ajas merce de l'esperit pausat en carcer.

[2.21] E aministra a nos dias, e oras, e venias, e dejunis, e Oracios, e presicatis enaissi cum es costuma de bos crestias, que nos no siam jujat ni cumdampnat al dia /237a/ del judici cum li felo.

[2.22] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

### [III. Rite for the Transmission of the Prayer]

[3.1] Si crezent esta en l'astencia, e li cretia so acordant que li liuro la Oracio, lavo se las mas.

[3.2] E crezent, si n'i a, eissament.

[3.3] E puis la i dels bos homes, aquel que es apres l'ancia, fa<s>za iii revenencias a l'ancia.

[3.4] E puis aparele i desc; e puis autras iii.

[3.5] E meta touala sobre l desc; e puis autras iii.

[3.6] E meta le Libre sobre la touala.

[3.7] E puis diga: Benedicite, parcite nobis.

[3.8] E puis le crezent fasza so meloier, e prenga le Libre de la ma de l'ancia.

[3.9] E l'ancia deu lo amonestar e prezicar ab testimonis covinentz.

[3.10] E si l crezent a nom Peire, diga enaissi: En Peire, vos devetz entendre que can esz denant la Gleisa de Deu, que vos esz denant le Paire e l Fil e l Sant Esperit.

[3.11] Quar la Gleisa es dita ajustament; et aqui on so li ver cretia, aqui es le Paire e l Fil e l Sant Esperit aissi co las devinas Escripturas o demostran.

[3.12] Quar Crist dix en /237b/ l'Avangeli de sanh Matheu: En qual que loc seran ii o iii ajustat el meu nom, eu so aqui e meg de lor.

[3.13] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Joan dix: Si alcus amara mi, la mia paraula gardara, e l meu Paire amara lui, e venrem a lui et estaja farem ab lui.

[3.14] E sanh Paul dix en la segonda Pistola als Corintias: Vos esz temples de Deu lo viu aissi co Deus dix per Ysaïas: Quar eu estarei en els, et irei e serei Deu de lor, et eli seran pobles de mi.

[3.15] Per la qual causa: Issetz de meg de lor e siatz departit, so ditz lo Senhor.

[3.16] E la laja causa no tocaretz et eu recebrei vos.

[3.17] E serei a vos em paire.

[3.18] E vos seretz a mi en fils et e filhas, so ditz lo Senhor Deus totz poderos.

[3.19] Et en l'autre loc dix: O quiretz l'esproament de Crist que parla e mi.

[3.20] Et en la primeire Apistola a Timoteu dix: Aquestas causa[s] escrivi a tu esperantz mi venir a tu viasament, mais si eu me tarzarei, que sapias en qual maneira te covenga coversar en la maiso de Deu, la quals es /237c/ Gleisa del viu Deu, coronda e fermament de veritat.

[3.21] Et el meteis dix als Ebreus: Mais Crist es enaissi coma Fils en la sua maiso, la qual maiso em nos.

[3.22] Quar l'Esperit de Deu sia com li fizel de Jesu Crist, enaissi o demostra Crist en l'Avangeli de sanh Joan: Si mi amatz, li mei comandament gardatz.

[3.23] Et eu pregarei lo Paire, et autre Cofortador donara a vos, que estia ab vos en durabletat, Esperit de veritat, lo qual lo mon no pot recebre quar no l'vi ni l'sab; mais vos le conoisseretz, quar ab vos estara et ab vos sera.

[3.24] No vos laissarei orfes; venrei a vos.

[3.25] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Mateu dix: Vec vos qu'eu so ab vos per totz dias entro a l'acabament del segle.

[3.26] E sanh Paul dix en la primeira Pistola als Corintias: No sabetz que vos esz temple de Deu lo viu e l'Esperit de Deu esta e vos?

[3.27] Mais si alcus corumpia lo temple de Deu, Deus destrozira lui.

[3.28] Quar lo temple de Deu es sanh, lo qual esz vos.

[3.29] Enaissi o demostra Crist en l'Avangeli de sanh Mateu: Quar /237d/ no esz vos que parlatz mais l'Esperit del vostre Paire que parla e vos.

[3.30] E sanh Joan dix en la Pistola: En aisso sabem quar en lui estam et el e nos quar del seu Esperit dec a nos.

[3.31] E sanh Paul dix als Galatas: Quar esz fil de Deu, Deus trames l'esperit del seu Fil el vostre cor, cridant: Paire, Paire.

[3.32] Per que es a entendre quar lo vostre presetament, lo qual fes

denant les fíls de Jesu Crist, coferma la fe e la presicatio de la Gleisa de Deu segon que las devinas Escripturas o donan az entendre.

[3.33] Quar lo poble de Deu se departic ancianament del seu Senhor Deu.

[3.34] E departic se del conselh e de la voluntat del seu sanh Paire per lo decebement e per lo sotzmetement dels malignes esperitz.

[3.35] E per aquestas razos, e per moutas d'autras, es donat az entendre quar lo sanh Paire vol mercenejar del seu poble e recebre lui a patz e a la sua concordia per l'aveniment del seu Fil, Jesu Crist.

[3.36] Don es aquesta l'ocaizo quar esz aici denant los decipols /238a/ de Jesu Crist, el qual loc abita esperitalment lo Paire e l Fil e l Sant Esperit, aissi co desus es demostrat, que vos dejatz recebre aicela santa Oracio, la qual donec lo Senhor Jesu Crist a sos decipols, enaissi que las vostras Oracios e las vostras pregueiras sian eissauzidas del nostre sanh Paire.

[3.37] Per la qual causa devetz entendre, si aquesta santa Oracio voletz recebre, quar cove vos pentir de totz les vostres pecatz e perdonar a totz homes.

[3.38] Quar lo nostre Senhor Jesu Crist dix: Si no perdonaretz als homes li pecat de lor, ni l vostre Paire celestial no perdonara a vos los vostre pecatz.

[3.39] De rescaps se cove que perpausetz e vostre cor de gardar aquesta santa Oracio totz les temps de la vostra vida, si Deus donara a vos gracia de recebre ela, segon la costuma de la Gleisa de Deu, ab castetat, et ab veritat, et ab totas bonas autras vertutz las quals Deus volra donar a vos.

[3.40] Per la qual causa pregam le bo Senhor, lo qual donec vertut de recebre aquesta santa Oracio als decipols de Jesu Crist ab fer- /238b/ metat, que el mezeis done a vos gracia de recebre ela ab fermetat, et a onor de lui e de la vostra salvatio.

[3.41] Parcite nobis.

[3.42] E puis l'ancia diga la Oracio e l crezentz que la seguia.

[3.43] E puis diga l'ancia: Aquesta santa Oracio vos liuram que la recepiatz de Deu, e de nos, e de la Gleisa, e que ajatz pozeitat de dir ela totz les temps de la vostra vida, de dias e de nuitz, sols et ab cumpanha, e que jamais no mangetz ni bevatz que aquesta Oracio no digatz primeirament.

[3.44] E si o faziatz en falha, auria vos obs qu'en portessetz penedensa.

[3.45] Et el deu dir: Eu la recebi de Deu, e de vos, e de la Gleisa.

[3.46] E puis fassa so miloier e reda gracias. 1 crezent detras els.

#### [IV. Rite for the Ministration of the *Consolamentum*]

[4.1] E si deu esser cossolatz ades, fasa so milhoier e prega le Libre de la ma de l'ancia.

[4.2] E l'ancia deu le amonestar e prezicar ab testimonis covinentz et ab aitals paraulas co's coveni a cossolament.

[4.3] E diga enaissi: En Peire, voletz recebre lo bab-/238c/ tisme esperital per lo qual es datz Sant Esperit en la Gleisa de Deu, ab la santa Oracio, ab l'empausament de las mas dels bos homes?

[4.4] Del qual bapisme dix lo nostre Senhor Jesu Crist en l'Avangeli de sanh Mateu a sos dicipols: **Anatz et essenhatz totas las gentz, e batejatz les el nom del Paire e del Filh e del Sant Esperit, et essenhatz lor a gardar totas las causas que eu comandei a vos.**

[4.5] E vec vos que eu so com vos per totz dias entro a l'acabament del segle.

[4.6] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Marc dix: **Anatz en tot lo mon, prezicatz l'avangeli a tota creatura.**

[4.7] E qui creira e sera batejatz sera sals, mas qui no creira sera cumdampnatz.

[4.8] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Joan, dix a Nicodemus: **Verament, verament, dic a tu que ja negus no intrara el regne de Deu si no sera renatz d'aiga e de Sant Esperit.**

[4.9] E Joan Baptista parlec d'aquest bapisme can dix: **Acertas eu bategi en aiga, mais aicel que es a venir seguentre mi es plus fortz de mi, del qual eu no so dignes deliar lo /238d/ correg de la causament de lui.**

[4.10] El vos batejara en Sant Esperit et en foc.

[4.11] E Jesu Crist dix es Fait dels Apostols: **Quar acertas Joan bategec en aiga, mais vos seretz batejat en Sant Esperit.**

[4.12] Aquest sanh babtisme de mas-emposetio fe Jesu Crist segon que retra sanh Luc; e dix que li sei amic le farian, enaissi co retra sanh Marc: **Sobre ls malautes pausaran las mas et auran be.**

[4.13] E Ananias fe aquest babtisme a sanh Paul can fo covertitz.

[4.14] Et enapres Paul e Barnabas fero lo e moutz lox.

[4.15] E sanh Peire e sanh Joan fero lo sobre ls Samaritas, quar aissi o dix sanh Luc el Fait dels Apostols: **Cum agues:so auzit li apostols que eran en Yerusalem que Samaria receub la paraula de Deu, trameiro ad els Peire e Joan li qual, co fosso vengut, orero per els que receubesso Sant Esperit.**

[4.16] **Quar encara en alcu de lor no era vengutz.**

[4.17] **Adoncas pausavan las mas sobr'els, e recebio Sant Esperit.**

[4.18] Aquest sanh /239a/ babtisme, per lo qual Sant Esperit es datz, a tengut la Gleisa de Deu dels apostols en sa, et es vengutz de bos homes en bos homes entro aici, e o fara entro la fi del segle.

[4.19] E devetz entendre que pozestat es dada a la Gleisa de Deu de liar e de desliar, e de perdonar pecatz e de retenir, enaissi co Crist dix en l'Avangeli de sanh Joan: **Enaissi cum lo Paire me trames et eu trameti vos.**

[4.20] **Cum agues dithas aquestas causas, espirec e dix ad els: Recebetz Sant Esperit.**

[4.21] **Dels quals perdo[na]retz los pecatz, so perdonatz ad els; e dels quals los retenretz, so re[te]ngut.**

[4.22] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Mateu, dix a Simon Peire: **Eu dic a tu que tu est Peire, e sobre aquest[a] peira eu endeficarei la mia gleisa, e las portas d'ifern no auran forsa encontra lei.**

[4.23] **E a tu donarei las claus del regne dels cels, e qual que causa tu liara[s] sobre terra sera liada els cels; e qual que causa tu desliaras sobre terra sera desliada els cels.**

[4.24] Et en autre loc /239b/ dix a sos decipols: **Verament dic a vos que qual que causa liaretz sobre terra sera liada els cels; e qual que causa solveretz sobre terra sera souta els cels.**



[4.25] **E de rescaps verament dic a vos: Si doi de vos se cosentiran sobre terra de tota causa, qual que causa queran sera feita ad els del meu Paire qui es el cel.**

[4.26] **Quar aqui on so doi o trei ajustat el meu nom, eu so aqui e meg de lor.**

[4.27] Et en autre loc dix: **Los malautes sanatz, los mortz resuscitatz, los lebosses mondatz, los demonis gitatz.**

[4.28] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Joan dix: **Qui cre e mi, las obras que eu fas, fara.**

[4.29] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Marc dix: **Mais aquels que creiran, aquestas signas los segran: El meu nom gitaran demonis; et ab lengas novas parlaran; e serpentz ostaran; e si beuran alcuna causa mortal, no nozera ad els; sobre ls malautes pausaran las mas, et auran be.**

[4.30] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Luc dix: **Vec vos que eu dei a vos poder caucigar sobre ls serpetz, et /239c/ els escorpis, e sobre tot le poder de l'enemic; e re a vos no nozera.**

[4.31] E si aquest poder ni aquesta pozestat voletz recebre, cove vos tenir totz los comandamentz de Crist e del Novel Testament a vostre poder.

[4.32] E sapiatz que el a comandat que hom no avoutre, ni ausisa, ni memta, ni jure negu sacrament, ni pane, ni raube, ni faza az autre so que no vol que sia fait a ssi, e que hom perdone qui li fa mal, e que hom ame sei enemic, e que hom ore e benezisca als encausadors et als acusadors de si.

[4.33] E qui l ferra e la una gauta, que li pare l'autra, e qui li tolra la gonela, que li laisse lo mantel; e que hom no juge ni cumdampne; e moutz d'autres comandamentz que so comandat del Senhor a la sua Gleisa.

[4.34] Et eissament, vos cove que aziretz aquest mon e las suas obras, e las causas que de lui so.

[4.35] Quar sanh Joan dix en la Pistola: **O mout cari, no volhatz amar lo mon ni aicelas causas que so el mon.**

[4.36] **Si alcus ama lo mon, la caritat del Paire no es en lui.**

[4.37] **Quar tot aco que /239d/ es el mon es cobeza de carn, e cobeza d'uls, et ergulh de vida, la qual no es del Paire, mais del mon es.**

[4.38] E l mons traspassara, e la cobeza de lui, mais qui fa la voluntat de Deu esta en durabletat.

[4.39] E Crist dix a las gentz: Lo mon no pot azira vos, mais mi azira quar eu porti testimoni de lui que las obras de lui so malas.

[4.40] Et el libre de Salamo es escriut: Eu vi totas aquelas causas que so feitas jos le solelh; e vec vos que totas so vanetatz e turmentz d'esperit.

[4.41] E Judas Jacme dix, essenhatz nos en la Pistola: **Aziratz aicela gonela solada la quals es carnals.**

[4.42] E per aquestz testimonis e per moutz d'autres vos cove a tenir li comandament de Deu et azira aquest mon.

[4.43] E si be o faitz entro a la fi, avem esperansa que la vostra arma aja vida durabla.

[4.44] Et el diga: Enaissi ei voluntat.

[4.45] Pregatz Deu per mi que m'en do la sua forsa.

[4.46] E puis la i dels bos homes fasa so miloier ab le crezentz /240a/ a l'ancia, e diga: *Parcite nobis.*

[4.47] Bo crestia, nos vos pregam per amor de Deu que donetz d'aquel Be que Deus vos a dat ad aquest nostre amic.

[4.48] E puis le crezent fasa so miloier, e diga: *Parcite nobis.*

[4.49] De totz les pecatz qu'eu anc fi, ni parlei, ni cossirei, ni obrei, venc a perdo a Deu, et a la Gleisa, et a totz vos.

[4.50] E li crestia digan: De Deu, e de nos, e de la Gleisa vos sian perdonat; e nos preguem Deu que le:s vos perdo.

[4.51] E puis devo lo cossolar.

[4.52] E l'ancia prenga lo Libre e meta le i sus lo cap, e li autri boni homi, cascu la ma destra.

[4.53] E digan las parcias e *in adoremus*, e puis: *Pater sante, suciper servum tuum in tua iusticia et mite gratiam tuam e Spiritum Santum tuum super eum.*

[4.54] E pregon Deu ab la Oracio, et aquel que guisa lo menester deu ecelar a la <sup>vi</sup>, e can la <sup>vi</sup> sera dita, deu dire <sup>iii</sup> *adoremus* e la Oracio una vetz en auzida, e puis l'Avangeli.

[4.55] E can l'Avangeli es ditz, devo dire <sup>iii</sup> *adoremus*, e la gracia, /240b/ e las parcias.

[4.56] E puis devo far patz entre lor et ab lo Libre.

[4.57] E si crezentz i a, fasan patz atressi.

[4.58] E crezentas si n'i a, fasan patz ab lo Libre et entre lor.

[4.59] E puis pregon Deu ab dobla et ab venias.

[4.60] Et auran liurat.

#### **[V. Rules for the Use of the Prayer and Conduct Associated with its Recitation]**

[5.1] Mesagaria de tenir dobla ni de dire la Oracio no deu esser portada per home seglal.

[5.2] Si crestiani van en loc de regart, p[re]gon Deu ab gracia.

[5.3] E si degus cavalga, tenga dobla.

[5.4] E deu dire la Oracio az intrant de nau o de villa, o a passant de planca o de pont regards.

[5.5] E si atroba[n] home ab cui les covenga parlar mentre pregan Deu, e si an <sup>viii</sup> Oracio[s], pod n'esser pres per sembra.

[5.6] E si n'an <sup>xvi</sup> Oracios, pod n'esser pres per dobla.

[5.7] E si troban aver en cami, no lo toco si no sabian que l poguesso redre.

[5.8] E si ades vezo que homes ne fosso passat denant a qui poguess esser redut, prezesso le e redesso le si podian.

[5.9] E si no podian, t[or]nesso le en aquel loc.

[5.10] E si trobavan bestia o auzel presa o pres no [...] /240c/ s'en

metan en als.

[5.11] E si crestias vol beure dementre es dias, aja pregat Deu doas vegadas, o mas apres manjar.

[5.12] E si apres la dobla de la nuit bevian, fasan outra dobla.

[5.13] E s'i a crezentz, estian de pes quan diran la Oracio per beure.

[5.14] E si crestias prega Deu ab crestianas, guize la Oracio tota ora.

[5.15] E si cresentz a qui fos lirlada la Oracio era ab crestianas, an s'en az outra part e fassa per si meteiss.

#### [VI. Rite for the Ministration of the *Consolamentum* for the Sick]

[6.1] Si crestias als quals le menester de la Gleisa es comandatz an message de crezentz malaute, anar i devo, e devo li demandar en cossell co s'es menatz vais la Gleisa depuis que receup la fe, ni si es de re endeutatz vas la Gleisa ni encolpatz.

[6.2] E si deu lunha re e o pod pagar, far o deu.

[6.3] E si far no o vol, no deu esser receubutz.

[6.4] Quar qui prega Deu per home torturer ni per deslial, no pod profeitar aquela pregeira.

[6.5] Empero /240d/ si pagar no o pod, no deu esser sofanatz.

[6.6] E li crestiani devo li mostrar l'astenenza e las costumas de la Gleisa.

[6.7] E puis devo li demandar si era receubutz si a cor que o tenges.

[6.8] E no o deu autrejar si be no s'o sentia fermament.

[6.9] Quar sanh Joan dix que **la partida dels messorguers sera en estanh de foc e de solfer.**

[6.10] E si ditz que be s sent fermes que tot o pusca sofrir, e si li crestiani so acordantz que l recepian, l'astenesa li devo cargar en aital guisa que l demando si a cor que s garde de mentir, e de jurar, e dels autres devetz de Deu, e de tenir las costumas de la Gleisa e ls mandamentz de Deu, e de tenir so cor e so aver aital co ara l'a ni per azenant l'aura

en azaut de Deu et de la Gleisa e a servizi de crestias e de crestianas tot temps mais a so poder.

[6.11] E si ditz que o, eli devo responder: Aquesta abstenesia vos cargam que la recepiatz de Deu, e de nos, e de la Gleisa, e que la gardetz /241a/ aitant cant viuretz, que si be la gardatz ab las autras que avetz a far, avem esperraza que la vostra arma n'aja vida [durabla].

[6.12] E el deu dire: Eu la recebi de Deu, e de vos, e de la Gleisa.

[6.13] E puis devo li demandar si vol recebre la Oracio, e si ditz que o, vescan le de camisa e de bragas si far se pod.

[6.14] E fassan le estar e sezentz si pod lavar las mas.

[6.15] E metan touala o autre drap denant lui sus le leit.

[6.16] E sus aquel drap metan le Libre, e digan una vetz *Benadisite*, e *III* vetz *Adoremus Patrem et Filium e Spiritum Santum*.

[6.17] E deu pendre le Libre de la ma de l'ansia.

[6.18] E puis si esperar o pod, aquel que guiza l menester le deu amonestar e prezicar ab testimonis covinentz.

[6.19] E puis deu li demandar de la covenesa si l'a en cor a gardar ni a tenir aissi co a covengut.

[6.20] E si ditz que o, fasan la li refermar.

[6.21] E puis devo li passar la Oracio, et el que la sega.

[6.22] E puis, que l'ancia li diga: Aisso es la /241b/ Oracio que Jesu Crist aportec en aquest mon; e la ensenec als bos homes.

[6.23] E que jamais no manjetz ni no bevatz luna causa que aquesta Oracio no digatz primerament.

[6.24] E si o faziatz a menespec, auria vos obs qu'en portesetz penedensa.

[6.25] El deu dire: Eu la recebi de Deu, e de vos, e de la Gleisa.

[6.26] E puis pregan comiatz aissi coma femna.

[6.27] E puis devo pregar Deu ab dobla et ab venias.

[6.28] E puis devo tornar le Libre denant lui.

[6.29] E puis deu dire *iii* vetz *Adoremus Patrem es Filium e Spiritum Santum*.

[6.30] E puis prenga le Libre de la ma de l'Ansia, e l'ancias deu le amonestar ab testimonis et ab aitals paraulas co s'covenen a cosolament.

[6.31] E puis deu li demandar si a en cor a tenir e a gardar la covenessa aissi co o covenc.

[6.32] E que la li fassa refermar.

[6.33] E puis l'ancias deu pendre le Libre, e l malaute deu se clinar e dire: *Parcite nobis*.

[6.34] De totz les pecatz [que anc fi] ni parlei ni cosirei, venc /241c/ a perdo a Deu, e a la Gleisa, et a totz vos.

[6.35] E li crestiani devo dire: De Deu, e de nos, e de la Gleisa vos sian perdonatz; e nos preguem Deu que les vos perdo.

[6.36] E puis devo le cosolar enaissi que las mas e l Libre li devo pausar sus le cap e dire: *Benedicite, parcite nobis, amen*.

[6.37] *Fiat nobis secodum verbum tuum*.

[6.38] *Pater et Filius e Spiritus Santus parcat vobis omnia peccata vestra*.

[6.39] *Adoremus Paterem es Filium e Spiritum Santum: iii* vetz.

[6.40] E puis: *Pater santer, suciper servum tuum in tua iusticia, es mite graciām tuam e Spiritum Santum tuum super eum*.

[6.41] E si es femna devo dire: *Pater sante, suciper ancillam tuam in tua iusticia, e mitte grasiām tuam e Spiritum Santum tuum super eam*.

[6.42] E puis, que pregon Deu ab la Oracio; e devo eclar a la vi.

[6.43] E quan la sezena sera dita, devo dire *iii* vetz *Adoremus Paterem es Filium e Spiritum Santum*, e la Oracio una vetz en auzida, e puis l'Avangeli.

[6.44] E quan /241d/ es ditz, devo dire *iii* vetz *Adoremus Patrem es Filium e Spiritum Santum*, e la Oracio una vetz en auzida.

[6.45] E puis pregan comiatz coma home.

[6.46] E puis devo far patz entre lor e ab le Libre.

[6.47] E si crezentz ni crezentas i a, fassan patz.

[6.48] E puis li crestiani devo demandar las salutz e redre.

[6.49] E si l malaute fenis ni lor laissa ni lor dona alcuna causa, no o devo tenir per lor ni amparar, mais que o devo pausar e la voluntat de l'Orde.

[6.50] Empero si l malaute viu, li crestiani lo devo presentar a l'Orde e pregar que s recosole al pus tot que pusan.

[6.51] E el fassa ne sa voluntat.

Ed. Marvyn Roy Harris. – *Rialto* 31.5.2005.

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Ms.: Lyon, Bibliothèque municipale, PA 36 (formerly A.I.54) (235v-241v).

Critical Editions: E. Cunitz, «Ein Katharisches Ritual», *Beiträge zu den theologischen Wissenschaften*, vol. IV, Jena 1852; L. Clédât, *Le Nouveau Testament, traduit au XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle en langue provençale, suivi d'un rituel cathare*, Geneva 1968; reprint of the Paris 1887 edition, with an incomplete Latin text (section I), pp. VI-VII, and the Occitan text with facing translation, pp. [IX]-XXVI, and a photolithographic reproduction of the *Ritual*, pp. 470-482; René Nelli and René Lavaud, *Les Troubadours*, vol. II, *Le Trésor poétique de l'Occitanie, Rituel cathare* (section II), pp. 1028-1033, [Paris-Bruges] 1966; Jean Duvernoy, [http://jean.duvernoy.free.fr/text/pdf/cledat\\_rituel.pdf](http://jean.duvernoy.free.fr/text/pdf/cledat_rituel.pdf). Occitan text 1977; PDF file dated May 2001.

Translations: in English, Walter L. Wakefield and Austin P. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages*, 2nd ed., New York-Oxford 1991, pp. 483-494, 780-782; in French, L. Clédât, *q.v.* above; René Nelli and René Lavaud, *q.v.* above, (section II), p. 1031, 1033; René Nelli, *Écritures cathares: Nouvelle édition actualisée et augmentée* (referring to the 1959 Denoël edition, Paris), *Le Rituel cathare* (Le Rituel occitan), Paris 1968, pp. 207-225; Christine Thouzellier, *Rituel cathare*; introduction, texte critique, traduction et notes, Paris 1977, Appendice 20 (a full translation of section I); René Nelli, *Écritures cathares: Nouvelle édition actualisée et augmentée* par Anne Brenon, Monaco 1995, pp. 225-238 (Nelli's translation reprinted); in Italian, Francesco Zambon, *La cena segreta; trattati e rituali catari*, Milano 1997, pp. 301-314, 434-437.

## Consolamentum (Consolament)

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### Editorial Notes

The consolamentum was a spiritual baptism, as described in the New Testament, where the ritual practice of baptism by water was abrogated and baptism by fire implemented. Only a Parfait ("Perfect one") could administer the consolamentum, which meant that every new Parfait stood at the end of a chain of predecessor Parfaits linking him or her to the apostles and to Jesus himself.

It was the most significant ceremony in Cathar theology, marking the transition from ordinary believer (*auditore* or *credente*) to a *Parfait*, one of the elect. During the ceremony the Holy Spirit was believed to descend from heaven, and inhabit the Parfait's corporal body. It was largely because of this indwelling of the Holy Spirit that Parfaits were expected and willing to lead such ascetic lives, and why ordinary believers were prepared to "adore" them.

The ceremony was striking in its simplicity. It required no material elements such as water or anointing oil, and seems to have preserved a ceremony of the very earliest Christian Church. Cathars claimed that the rite had been appointed by Christ, and had been handed down from generation to generation by the *boni homines*. For Catholics of the time, the rite was rather a mystery and their best explanation was that the Cathar rite was a distorted imitation of various Catholic rituals.

The consolamentum was also given to sick or injured believers (see [\*Cathar Ritual\*, section 6](#)), in the expectation of death. As long as they died soon thereafter this presented no great problem, since they would have little opportunity to fall back into sin. But if they recovered, they were now Parfaits and presumably expected to behave as such. Some authorities (notably Jean Duvernoy) differentiate between the baptism of the Parfaits, from the 'Solace' baptism granted to the dying for the remission of their sins. In this case, those who received the 'Solace' baptism and survived seem to have been obliged to then undertake the normal training and receive the Consolamentum again to become a fully functioning member of the Elect.



As Wakefield and Evans put it (in *Heresies of the High Middle Ages*, p. 465): "Like a catechumen of the early Church - Catharist practices reflect the ancient usage - a believer had to undergo a period of probation, normally at least a year, during which he was instructed in the faith and disciplined in a life of rigorous asceticism"

### **Summary of the *Consolamentum* (Consolament)**

First, the postulant would need receive the *Melhoramentum*, a ritual title derived from an Occitan word meaning "improving."

The *Melhoramentum* was the acknowledgment by a believer of the Holy Spirit dwelling with the Parfait. The believer would kneel and, with both hands folded, bow three times to the ground; on each genuflections the believer would say: "Bless me, Lord; pray for me". Then, the Cathar prayed, "Lead us to our rightful end". The Parfait, man or woman, then answered, "God bless you... In our prayers, we ask from God to make a good Christian out of you and lead you to your rightful end".

After an extended period of training and fasting, and after the applicant had gone through the *Melhoramentum*, the rite of the *Consolamentum* proceeded as follows:

- The Parfait held the Bible above the kneeling postulant's head and recited the "Benedicite" .
- The postulant received from a Parfait a copy of the "The Pater" (Lord's Prayer).
- The Parfait addressed the postulant and explained to him from Scripture the indwelling of the spirit in the Parfait, and his adoption as a son by God.
- The Lord's Prayer was then repeated by the postulant, the Parfait explaining it clause by clause.
- There followed the Renunciation, primitive in form, except that it was adapted so that the postulant solemnly renounced the harlot church of the persecutors and their replicas of the cross, their sham baptisms and their other magical rites.
- Next followed the spiritual baptism itself, consisting of the imposition of hands, and the touching of the Gospel on the postulant's head.
- The Parfait's vocation was then defined, he or she was reminded of all the things that are forbidden, and of what was required of them: pardoning wrongdoers, loving enemies, praying for those who

calumniate and accuse, offering the other cheek to the smiter, giving up one's mantle to him that takes one's tunic, neither judging nor condemning. Asked if he will fulfil each of these requirements, the postulant answered: "I have this will and determination. Pray God for me that he give me his strength".

- The next part of the rite exactly reproduced the confiteor as it existed in the 2nd century, asking pardon for previous sins.
- Then followed the act of consoling. The Parfait took the Gospel and placed it on the postulant's head. Other Parfaits present placed their right hands on the postulant's head.
- They then three times adored the Father and Son and Holy Spirit and said a prayer asking God to welcome his servant and to send down the Holy Spirit.
- They then said the *parcias*, and repeated three times the "Let us adore the Father and Son and Holy Spirit", and then pray: "Holy Father, welcome thy servant in thy justice and send upon him thy grace and thy holy spirit."
- Then they repeated the adoration and the *The Lord's Prayer*, then read the John Gospel (1:1-17). This was the most solemn part of the rite, for the postulant was now a Parfait.
- The new Parfait was girt with a sacred thread round the torso.
- The Parfait would then be clad in a black gown.
- All Parfaits present would give the kiss of peace and the rite was over.

In the inquisitorial deposition of Guillaume Tardieu de la Galiolle (translated by Jean Duvernoy, *Le Dossier de Montségur : interrogatoires d'Inquisition 1242-1247*), the following ceremony is recounted:

... Then, on this Parfait's request, I devoted myself to God and the Gospel and promised to no longer eat meat, eggs, cheese and fat apart from oil and fish. I also promised not to swear in all my life, and to forsake the sect out of fear of fire, water and other kinds of death. After this oath, I recited the Pater Noster in the Parfaits' manner, then the Parfait held the book above my head and read the Gospel of Saint John. After this, they gave me peace first with the book and then with the mouth, kissing me twice across the mouth and prayed God, amidst much kneeling and "venias."

## Ritual Text of the Consolamentum (in Occitan, from the Cathar Ritual)

The following original Occitan text is found in the critical edition of the Lyon Ritual at Rialto:

### IV. Rite for the Ministration of the Consolamentum

[4.1] E si deu esser cossolatz ades, fasa so milhoirer e prega le Libre de la ma de l'ancia.

[4.2] E l'ancia deu le amonestar e prezicar ab testimonis covinentz et ab aitals paraulas co's covenó a cossolament.

[4.3] E diga enaissi: En Peire, voletz recebre lo bab- /238c/ tisme esperital per lo qual es datz Sant Esperit en la Gleisa de Deu, ab la santa Oracio, ab l'empausament de las mas dels bos homes?

[4.4] Del qual bapisme dix lo nostre Senhor Jesu Crist en l'Avangeli de sanh Mateu a sos decipols: **Anatz et essenhatz totas las gentz, e batejatz les el nom del Paire e del Filh e del Sant Esperit, et essenhatz lor a gardar totas las causas que eu comandeï a vos.**

[4.5] E vec vos que eu so com vos per totz dias entro a l'acabament del segle.

[4.6] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Marc dix: **Anatz en tot lo mon, prezicatz l'avangeli a tota creatura.**

[4.7] E qui creira e sera batejatz sera sals, mas qui no creira sera cumdampnatz.

[4.8] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Joan, dix a Nicodemus: **Verament, verament, dic a tu que ja negus no intrara el regne de Deu si no sera renatz d'aiga e de Sant Esperit.**

[4.9] E Joan Baptista parlec d'aquest bapisme can dix: **Acertas eu bategi en aiga, mais aicel que es a venir seguentre mi es plus fortz de mi, del qual eu no so dignes deliar lo /238d/ correg de la causamemta de lui.**

[4.10] **El vos batejara en Sant Esperit et en foc.**

[4.11] E Jesu Crist dix es Fait dels Apostols: **Quar acertas Joan bategec en aiga, mais vos seretz batejat en Sant Esperit.**

[4.12] Aquest sanh babtisme de mas-emposetio fe Jesu Crist segon que retra sanh Luc; e dix que li sei amic le farian, enaissi co retra sanh Marc: **Sobre ls malautes pausaran las mas et auran be.**

[4.13] E Ananias fe aquest babtisme a sanh Paul can fo covertitz.

[4.14] Et enapres Paul e Barnabas fero lo e moutz lox.

[4.15] E sanh Peire e sanh Joan fero lo sobre ls Samaritas, quar aissi o dix sanh Luc el Fait dels Apostols: **Cum ague[s]so auzit li apostols que eran en Yerusalem que Samaria receub la paraula de Deu, trameiro ad els Peire e Joan li qual, co fosso vengut, orero per els que receubesso Sant Esperit.**

[4.16] Quar encara en alcu de lor no era vengutz.

[4.17] Adoncas pausavan las mas sobr'els, e recebio Sant Esperit.

[4.18] Aquest sanh /239a/ babtisme, per lo qual Sant Esperit es datz, a tengut la Gleisa de Deu dels apostols en sa, et es vengutz de bos homes en bos homes entro aici, e o fara entro la fi del segle.

[4.19] E devetz entendre que pozestat es dada a la Gleisa de Deu de liar e de desliar, e de perdonar pecatz e de retenir, enaissi co Crist dix en l'Avangeli de sanh Joan: **Enaissi cum lo Paire me trames et eu trameti vos.**

[4.20] **Cum agues dithas aquestas causas, espirec e dix ad els: Recebetz Sant Esperit.**

[4.21] **Dels quals perdo[na]retz los pecatz, so perdonatz ad els; e dels quals los retenretz, so re[te]ngut.**

[4.22] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Mateu, dix a Simon Peire: **Eu dic a tu que tu est Peire, e sobre aquest[a] peira eu endeficarei la mia gleisa, e las portas d'ifern no auran forsa encontra lei.**

[4.23] E a tu donarei las claus del regne dels cels, e qual que causa tu liara[s] sobre terra sera liada els cels; e qual que causa tu desliaras sobre terra sera desliada els cels.

[4.24] Et en autre loc /239b/ dix a sos decipols: **Verament dic a vos que qual que causa liaretz sobre terra sera liada els cels; e qual que causa solveretz sobre terra sera souta els cels.**

[4.25] E de rescaps verament dic a vos: Si doi de vos se cosentiran sobre terra de tota causa, qual que causa queran sera feita ad els del meu Paire

qui es el cel.

[4.26] Quar aqui on so doi o trei ajustat el meu nom, eu so aqui e meg de lor.

[4.27] Et en autre loc dix: **Los malautes sanatz, los mortz resuscitatz, los lebrosses mondatz, los demonis gitatz.**

[4.28] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Joan dix: **Qui cre e mi, las obras que eu fas, fara.**

[4.29] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Marc dix: **Mais aquels que creiran, aquestas signas los segran: El meu nom gitaran demonis; et ab lengas novas parlaran; e serpentz ostaran; e si beuran alcuna causa mortal, no nozera ad els; sobre ls malautes pausaran las mas, et auran be.**

[4.30] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Luc dix: **Vec vos que eu dei a vos poder caucigar sobre ls serpetz, et /239c/ els escorpis, e sobre tot le poder de l'enemic; e re a vos no nozera.**

[4.31] E si aquest poder ni aquesta pozestat voletz recebre, cove vos tenir totz los comandamentz de Crist e del Novel Testament a vostre poder.

[4.32] E sapiatz que el a comandat que hom no avoutre, ni ausisa, ni memta, ni jure negu sacrament, ni pane, ni raube, ni faza az autre so que no vol que sia fait a ssi, e que hom perdone qui li fa mal, e que hom ame sei enemic, e que hom ore e benezisca als encausadors et als acusadors de si.

[4.33] E qui l ferra e la una gauta, que li pare l'autra, e qui li tolra la gonela, que li laisse lo mantel; e que hom no juge ni cumdampne; e moutz d'autres comandamentz que so comandat del Senhor a la sua Gleisa.

[4.34] Et eissament, vos cove que aziretz aquest mon e las suas obras, e las causas que de lui so.

[4.35] Quar sanh Joan dix en la Pistola: **O mout cari, no volhatz amar lo mon ni aicelas causas que so el mon.**

[4.36] Si alcus ama lo mon, la caritat del Paire no es en lui.

[4.37] Quar tot aco que /239d/ es el mon es cobezeza de carn, e cobezeza d'uls, et ergulh de vida, la qual no es del Paire, mais del mon es.

[4.38] E l mons traspassara, e la cobezeza de lui, mais qui fa la voluntat de Deu esta en durabletat.

[4.39] E Crist dix a las gentz: **Lo mon no pot azira vos, mais mi azira quar**

**eu porti testimoni de l̄ui que las obras de lui so malas.**

[4.40] Et el libre de Salamo es escript: **Eu vi totas aquelas causas que so feitas jos le solelh; e vec vos que totas so vanetatz e turmentz d'esperit.**

[4.41] E Judas Jacme dix, essenhatz nos en la Pistola: **Aziratz aicela gonela solada la quals es carnals.**

[4.42] E per aquestz testimonis e per moutz d'autres vos cove a tenir li comandament de Deu et azira aquest mon.

[4.43] E si be o faitz entro a la fi, avem esperansa que la vostra arma aja vida durabla.

[4.44] Et el diga: Enaissi ei voluntat.

[4.45] Pregatz Deu per mi que m'en do la sua forsa.

[4.46] E puis la i dels bos homes fasa so miloier ab le crezentz /240a/ a l'ancia, e diga: *Parcite nobis.*

[4.47] Bo crestia, nos vos pregam per amor de Deu que donetz d'aquel Be que Deus vos a dat ad aquest nostre amic.

[4.48] E puis le crezent fasa so miloier, e diga: *Parcite nobis.*

[4.49] De totz les pecatz qu'eu anc fi, ni parlei, ni cossirei, ni obrei, venc a perdo a Deu, et a la Gleisa, et a totz vos.

[4.50] E li crestia digan: De Deu, e de nos, e de la Gleisa vos sian perdonat; e nos preguem Deu que l'e's vos perdo.

[4.51] E puis devo lo cossolar.

[4.52] E l'ancia prenga lo Libre e meta le i sus lo cap, e li autri boni homi, cascu la ma destra.

[4.53] E digan las parcias e *III adoremus*, e puis: *Pater sante, suciper servum tuum in tua iusticia et mite gratiam tuam e Spiritum Santum tuum super eum.*

[4.54] E pregon Deu ab la Oracio, et aquel que guisa lo menester deu ecelar a la *VI*, e can la *VI* sera dita, deu dire *III adoremus* e la Oracio una vetz en auzida, e puis l'Avangeli.

[4.55] E can l'Avangeli es ditz, devo dire *III adoremus*, e la gracia, /240b/ e las parcias.

[4.56] E puis devo far patz entre lor et ab lo Libre.

[4.57] E si crezentz i a, fasan patz atressi.

[4.58] E crezentas si n'i a, fasan patz ab lo Libre et entre lor.

[4.59] E puis pregon Deu ab dobla et ab venias.

[4.60] Et auran liurat.

## *Apareilementum (Servissi):* **General Confession Liturgy from the *Lyon Ritual***

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### **Editorial Notes**

The *Apareilementum* (also given as *Apparellamentum*) or *Servissi* (Service) is believed to have been a monthly Cathar rite involving a public and a solemn confession, identical to the earliest form of confession known in the Christian Church. It is found only in the Occitan *Cathar Ritual* (*Lyon Ritual*), the most important extant manuscript of Cathar ritual.

There is some uncertainty whether the ceremony was restricted to the Elect or required of all Credentes. According to the opinion of Jean Duvernoy, the rite was restricted to the Elect.

A reasonable version of the text is given below, followed by the original text from the *Cathar Ritual* (*Lyon Ritual*) in Occitan. This translation (of unidentified first source) more closely follows the Occitan than does the version in Walter L.

Wakefield and Austin P. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages* (2nd ed., New York: Columbia University Press, 1991), p. 484-5.

This version of the text is one of the mysteries of the Gnosis Archive. We transcribed it around 1995 while first putting together this collection, and we never identified a published source. It has now been reproduced widely around the internet without a citation, and so we preserve it here with some further corrections based on the Occitan text. Whatever the source of this version, it is interesting to carefully read the English text and then try to read the Occitan. If you have some familiarity with Romance languages, you will be able to hear the Occitan voice. This was the poetic tongue of the time, it reached across France and Spain to Galicia; it was the language of many Troubadours. Give it a try -- read the two texts, see where the translation differs. Listen to the first voice of the text....



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## **The Apareilementum: *Servissi*** **General Confession Liturgy**

We have come before God and before you and before the ordinances of the Holy Church that we may receive pardon and penance for all our sins in thought, word and deed from our birth until now and we ask of God mercy and of you that you pray for us to the Holy Father of Mercy that He forgive us.

Let us worship God and declare all our sins and numerous offences in the sight of the Father, the Son and the honoured Holy Spirit, of the honoured Holy Gospels and the honoured Holy Apostles, by prayer and faith and by the salvation of all the upright and glorious Christians and blessed ancestors asleep and here present, for their sake we ask you, holy lord, to pardon all our sins.

***Benedicte, Parcite Nobis. (Bless and have mercy upon us)***  
**- Amen.**

For numerous are the sins by which we daily offend God, night and day, in thought, in word and deed, wittingly and unwittingly, and especially by the desires the evil spirits bring to us in the flesh which clothes us.

***Benedicte, Parcite Nobis.***  
**- Amen.**

Whereas we are taught by God's Holy Word as well as by the Holy Apostles and the preaching of our spiritual brothers to reject all fleshly desire and all uncleanness and to do the will of God by doing good we, unworthy servants that we are, not only do not do the will of God as we should, but more often give way to desires of the flesh and the cares of the world, to such an extent that we wound our spirits.

***Benedicte, Parcite Nobis.***  
**-Amen.**

We go with those who are of the world, mixing with them, talking and eating with them, and sinning in many things so that we wound our brothers and our sisters.

*Benedicte, Parcite Nobis.*  
*- Amen.*

By our tongues we fall into idle words, vain talk, mockery and malice, detraction of our brothers and sisters whom we are not worthy to judge nor to condemn their faults. Among Christians we are sinners.

*Benedicte, Parcite Nobis.*  
*- Amen.*

The penance which we received we have not observed as we ought to have done, neither the fasting nor the prayer. We have wasted our days and hours. While we are saying the Holy Prayer our senses are diverted to carnal desires and worldly cares, so that at this moment we hardly know what we can offer to the Father of the Just.

*Benedicte, Parcite Nobis.*  
*- Amen.*

O Thou Holy and Good Lord, all those things that have befallen us in our senses and in our thought we confess, Holy Lord, and all our many sins we place on the mercy of God and on the Holy Prayer and on the Holy Gospel.

*Benedicte, Parcite Nobis.*  
*- Amen.*

O Lord, judge and condemn the imperfections of the flesh. Have no pity on the flesh, born of corruption, but show mercy to the spirit which is imprisoned therein. Direct for us the days, hours, and obeisances, as is the custom of good Christians, that we be not judged or condemned with the unjust at the Day of Judgment.

***Benedicite, Parcite Nobis.***  
**- Amen.**

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*The Occitan text is found in the critical edition of the Lyon Ritual at Rialto:*

### **Servissi**

[2.1] Nos em vengut denant Deu, e denant vos, e denant l'azordenament de santa Gleisa per recebre servisi, e perdo, e penedensia de tuit li nostri pecat li qual avem fait, ni dig, ni pessatz, ni obratz del nostre naissement entro fin a-/236b/ora; e quirem misericordia a Deu et a vos, que vos preguetz per nos lo Paire sanh de misericordia que nos perdo.

[2.2] Adorem Deu e manifestem tuit li nostre pecat e las nostras moutas greus ofensios az esgardament del Paire e del Fil e de l'onorat Sant Esperit, e dels onoratz sanhs Avangelis, e dels onoratz sanhs Apostols per la Oracio, e per la fe, e per la salvatio de tuit li dreiturers gloriosses crestias, e dels bonauratz durmentz ancesors, e dels fraires enaviro estant, e denant vos, sanh Senhor, que nos perdonetz tot ço en que nos pequem. [2.3] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.4] Quar moutz so les nostres pecatz els quals nos ofendem a minca dia, per nuit e per dia, en paraula, et en obra, e segon cossirer, ab voluntat e senes voluntat, e plus per la nostra volotat, la qual denant nos aportan les malignes esperitz en las carns que vestem.

[2.5] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.6] Mais aissi cum la santa Paraula de Deu nos essenha, e li sanh a-/236c/postol e li nostri frairi esperital nos o anoncian, que nos degitem tot desirer de la carn, e tota lagesa, e fazam la voluntat de Deu el perfeit Ben cumplit.

[2.7] Mais noi serve[n] [n]ualhos no fazem solament la voluntat de Deu enaissi cum se covengra, mais sovendeirament azomplem li desirer de la carn en las curas seglars, si c'als nostres esperitz nozem.

[2.8] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.9] Cum la gent mundana andam, cum lor essemes estam, e parlam, e majam, e de moutas causas ofendem, si qu'als

nostres fraires et als nostres esperitz nozem.

[2.10] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.11] De las nostras lengas cazem em paraulas ossiossas, en vas parlamentz, en ris, en esquers, e malesas, en retrazement de fraires e de serors dels quals nos no em digne de jujar ni de cumdampnar li ofendement dels fraires e de las seros.

[2.12] Entre ls crestias estan pecadors.

[2.13] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.14] Lo servi que receubem, no l ga[r]dem aissi cum se covengra, lo /236d/ dejuni ni la Oracio; nostres dias traspassem, nostras oras pervericam; nos estant en la santa Oracio, nostre sen se desvia els desirers carnals, en las curas seglars, si que en aquela ora a penas sabem qual causa ufrem al Paire dels justz.

[2.15] *Benedicite, parcit[e] nobis.*

[2.16] O tu, sant e bo Senhor, totas aquelas causas que a nos endevengro al nostre sen et al nostre cosirer, a tu las manifestam, sanh Senhor, e tota la moutesa dels pecatz pausam en la misericordia de Deu, et en la santa Oracio, et en lo sant Avangeli.

[2.17] Quar moutz so los nostres pecatz.

[2.18] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

[2.19] O Senhor, juja e cumdapna los vises de la carn.

[2.20] No ajas merce de la carn nada de corruptio, mais ajas merce de l'esperit pausat en carcer.

[2.21] E aministra a nos dias, e oras, e venias, e dejunis, e Oracios, e presicatis enaissi cum es costuma de bos crestias, que nos no siam jujat ni cumdampnat al dia /237a/ del judici cum li felo.

[2.22] *Benedicite, parcite nobis.*

## Traditio: Rite for the Transmission of the Prayer (from the *Cathar Ritual*)

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### Editorial Notes

This is the ritual for reception of the *Pater noster* prayer by a Cathar *credente*. The Occitan text included is from the *Cathar Ritual*, also known as the *Lyon Ritual*, (*ms. Lyon, Bibliothèque municipale, PA 36, 235v-241*). Two separate versions of the *Cathar Ritual* survive (one in Occitan and one in Latin); it is the most important extant record of Cathar liturgical forms.

We recommend reading this text as a meditation, placing yourself into the twelfth century and taking the role of the *credente* with your own responsive voice. In this action of meditation, by consciously entering the ritual, you will learn more about the Cathar tradition than any book can teach.

The reconstructed version below reflects the Occitan and Latin rituals, but is not identical with either or with the English versions in W. Wakefield & A. Evans, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages* (2nd ed., New York: Columbia University Press, 1991). In the later parts it extends beyond the Occitan text, and includes liturgical formula associated with first sections of the Consolamentum ritual. We are not able to presently identify the first source of this version, which we obtained before 1995, but it is a beautiful and fairly accurate rendition of the original texts.

The Occitan text of the ritual, appended at the end, is from the Occitan manuscript edition of the Cathar Ritual (or Lyon Ritual).

This version of the text is one of the mysteries of the Gnosis Archive. We obtained it in the very first years of putting together this collection, edited it for our presentation, and then never identified a published source. (*If you know the source, please send us a note.*) It has now been reproduced widely around the internet without a citation, and so we preserve it here in a new corrected edition. Whatever the source of this

version, it is interesting to carefully read the English text and then try to read the Occitan. If you have some familiarity with Romance languages, you will be able to hear the Occitan voice. This was the poetic tongue of the time, it reached across France and Spain to Galicia; it was the language of many Troubadours. Give it a try -- read the two texts, see where the translation differs. Listen to the first voice of the text....

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### **Traditio: Rite for the Transmission of the Prayer (from the Lyon Ritual)**

[Beginning at line 3.10]

...You must realize that when you are before the Church of God you are before the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, as the Scriptures teach. For Christ said in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew: *"Wheresoever two or three are gathered together in my name there I am in the midst of them."*

And in the Holy Gospel according to Saint John he said, *"If a man love me he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him."*

And Saint Paul says in the Second Epistle to the Corinthians, *"Ye are the Temple of the Living God, as God hath said by Isaiah, his prophet; I dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord; and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."*

And in another place he says, *"Seek ye the proof of Christ Who speaketh in me."*

And in the First Epistle to Timothy he says, *"These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly; but if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the House of God, which is the Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*

And he said also to the Hebrews, *"But Christ is a Son over His own house, Whose house we are."*

That the Spirit of God is with the followers of Jesus Christ, Christ has shown thus in the Gospel according to Saint John, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you."*

And in the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew He said, *"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."*

And Saint Paul said in the First Epistle to the Corinthians, *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the Temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."*

Christ shows it thus in the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, *"For it is not ye that speak but the Spirit of your Father that speaketh in you."*

And Saint John says in his epistle, *"By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, for He has given us His Spirit."*

And Saint Paul said to the Galatians, *"Because ye are sons God hath sent forth the spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying "Father! Father!"*

Wherefore be it understood that your presentation made before the sons of Jesus Christ confirms the faith and teaching of the Church of God as the Holy Scriptures tell us. For in former times the people of God separated themselves from the Lord their God. And they abandoned the will and guidance of their Heavenly Father through the deceptions of the wicked spirits and by submission to their will.

And for these reasons, and many others, we are certain that the Heavenly Father would have pity on His people and receive them again in peace and concord by the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ, and now is the time.

For you are here before the disciples of Jesus Christ in the place where Father, Son and Holy Ghost have their spiritual abode as is shown above, to receive that Holy Prayer which the Lord

Jesus gave to His disciples, so that your prayers might be granted by our Heavenly Father.

Therefore must you learn that if you would receive this Holy Prayer you must repent your sins and forgive all men. For Our Lord Jesus Christ says, "*If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Heavenly Father, forgive your trespasses.*"

Hence it is meet and right that you be resolved in your heart to keep this Holy Prayer all your life according to the custom of the Church of God, in purity and truth, and in all other virtues which God would bestow upon you.

Wherefore we pray the good Lord who bestowed upon the disciples of Jesus Christ the virtue to receive this Holy Prayer steadfastly that He may grant to you also the grace to receive it steadfastly, in His honour and for your salvation.

[The Elder then says the Lord's Prayer and the postulant follow him phrase by phrase:]

Our father, which art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our supplementary bread,  
And remit our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And keep us from temptation and free us from evil.  
Thine is the kingdom, the power and glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Pater noster qui es in celis,  
sanctificetur nomen tuum;  
adveniat regnum tuum.  
Fiat voluntas tua sicut in celo et in terra.  
Panem nostrum supersubstancialem da nobis hodie.  
Et dimitte nobis debita nostra sicut et nos dimittimus  
debitoribus nostris.  
Et ne nos inducas in temptationem sed libera nos a malo.  
Quoniam tuum est regnum et virtus et gloria in secula.  
Amen.

[After which the Elder will say:]



*"We deliver you this Holy Prayer that you may receive it of us and of God and of the Church, that you may have the power to say it all your life, day and night, alone or in company, and that you must never eat or drink without first saying it. If you omit to do so you must do penance."*

The Postulant replies: *"I receive it of you and of the Church."*

Then he turns and give thanks and make his melioramentum (bowing at the feet of the Elder).

Then the Elder asks the postulant, *"My brother, do you desire to give yourself to our faith?"*

The postulant being asked three times, and answering "Yes" on all, makes a bow and advances one step between each, saying *"Bless me,"* to which the Elder replies, *"God bless and keep you."*

At the third time bowing thus the postulant adds, *"Lord, pray to God for me, a sinner, that He will lead me to the good end,"* and the Elder replies, *"God bless you and make you a good Christian and bring you to the good end."*

Elder: *"Do you give yourself to God and the Gospel?"*

Postulant: *"Yes"*

Elder: *"Do you promise that henceforth you will eat neither meat nor eggs, nor cheese, nor fat, and that you live only from water and wood (i.e. vegetables and fish), that you will not lie, that you will not swear, that you will not kill, that you will not abandon your body to any form of luxury, that you will never go alone when it is possible to have a companion, that you will never sleep without breeches and shirt and that you will never abandon your faith for fear of water, fire or any other manner of death?"*

Postulant: *"Yes"*

[...] You wish to receive the spiritual baptism whereby the Holy Spirit is given in the Church of God with the Holy Prayer by the laying on of hands of the Good Men. Of this Baptism Our Lord Jesus Christ said in the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew:

*"Go ye and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to*

*observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."* And in the Gospel of Saint Mark he said, "*Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned*".

And in the Gospel of Saint John He said to Nicodemus, "*Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and the spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.*"

And John the Baptist spoke of this baptism when he said, "*I indeed baptize you with water, but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to loosen; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.*"

This gift of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands has been instituted by Jesus Christ as Saint Luke tells, and he said that his friends would confer it as Saint Mark says, "*They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.*"

And Ananias conferred this Baptism on Saint Paul when he was converted. For Saint Luke says thus in the Acts of the Apostles, "*Now when the Apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God they sent unto them Peter and John, who when they were come down, prayed for them that they might receive of the Holy Spirit, for as yet He was fallen upon none of them.*"

Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. This Holy Baptism by which the Holy Spirit is given the Church of God has kept from the Apostles until now, and it has come from the Good Men to the Good Men until now and shall do till the end of the world.

And you must understand that power is given to the Church of God to bind and to loose, to forgive sins and to retain them, as Christ said in the Gospel of Saint John, "*As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this he breathed on them and saith unto them "Receive Ye the Holy Ghost"; whatsoever sins ye remit they are remitted unto them, and whatsoever sins ye regain, they are regained.*"

And in the Gospel of Saint Matthew he said to Simon Peter, "*I say unto thee that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will*

*give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

*And again, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven. For wheresoever two or three are gathered in my name there am I in the midst of them"*

*And in another place he said, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils"*

*And in the Gospel of Saint John he said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do he shall do also."*

*And in the Gospel of Saint Mark he said, "These signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues, they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."*

*And in the Gospel of Saint Luke he said, "Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you."*

And if you wish to receive this power you must keep all the commandments of Christ and the New Testament according to your ability. And know that He has commanded that man shall not commit adultery or murder or lie, that he must not swear any oath, that he shall not seize or rob, nor do to others what he would not have done to himself, that man must forgive whoever wrongs him and love his enemies, pray for his detractors and accusers and bless them; and if anyone strike him on one cheek, turn to him the other also, and if anyone takes away his cloak, to leave him his coat also; and that he should neither judge nor condemn, and many other commandments which the Lord made for His Church. Also you must hate this world and its works and the things of the world, for Saint John says in his epistle:

*"O my beloved, love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the*

*world passeth away and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."*

And Christ said unto the Gentiles, *"The world cannot hate you, but me it hates because I bear witness of it that its works are evil."*

And in the Book of Solomon, it is written, *"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and vexation of Spirit."*

And Jude the brother of James said for our instruction in his Epistle, *"Hate the solid garment of flesh."*

And by these witnesses and any others you must keep the commandments of God and hate the world. And if you continue well to the end, we have the hope that your soul shall have life eternal.

And the Credent shall say, *"I have this will, pray to God for me that He will give me His power"*

Witness (says):

*"**Parcite Nobis.** Good Christians we pray you by the love of God that you grant this blessing, which God had given you, to our friend here present."*

Credent, after making his melioramentum (says):

*"**Parcite Nobis.** For all the sins I have ever done in thought, word and deed. I ask pardon of God, of the Church, and of you all."*

Assembly of Cathars and Witnesses (say):

*"By God and by us and by the Church, may your sins be forgiven and we pray God to forgive you them."*

***Adoremus, Patrem, et Filium et Spiritum Sanctam.***

***Adoremus, Patrem, et Filium et Spiritum Sanctam.***

***Adoremus, Patrem, et Filium et Spiritum Sanctam.***

*The following original Occitan text is found in the critical edition of the Lyon Ritual at Rialto.*

### ***III. Rite for the Transmission of the Prayer***

[3.1] Si crezent esta en l'astencia, e li crestia so acordant que li liuro la Oracio, lavo se las mas.

[3.2] E crezent, si n'i a, eissament.

[3.3] E puis la i dels bos homes, aquel que es apres l'ancia, fa«s»za iii revenencias a l'ancia.

[3.4] E puis aparele i desc; e puis autras iii.

[3.5] E meta touala sobre l desc; e puis autras iii.

[3.6] E meta le Libre sobre la touala.

[3.7] E puis diga: Benedicite, parcite nobis.

[3.8] E puis le crezent fasza so meloier, e prenga le Libre de la ma de l'ancia.

[3.9] E l'ancia deu lo amonestar e prezicar ab testimonis covinentz.

[3.10] E si l crezent a nom Peire, diga enaissi: En Peire, vos devetz entendre que can esz denant la Gleisa de Deu, que vos esz denant le Paire e l Fil e l Sant Esperit.

[3.11] Quar la Gleisa es dita ajustament; et aqui on so li ver crestia, aqui es le Paire e l Fil e l Sant Esperit aissi co las devinas Escripturas o demostran.

[3.12] Quar Crist dix en /237b/ l'Avangeli de sanh Matheu: En qual que loc seran ii o iii ajustat el meu nom, eu so aqui e meg de lor.

[3.13] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Joan dix: Si alcus amara mi, la mia paraula gardara, e l meu Paire amara lui, e venrem a lui et estaja farem ab lui.

[3.14] E sanh Paul dix en la segunda Pistola als Corintias: Vos esz temples de Deu lo viu aissi co Deus dix per Ysaïas: Quar eu estarei en els, et irei e serei Deu de lor, et eli seran pobles de mi.

[3.15] Per la qual causa: Issetz de meg de lor e siatz departit, so ditz lo Senhor.

[3.16] E la laja causa no tocaretz et eu recebrei vos.

[3.17] E serei a vos em paire.

[3.18] E vos seretz a mi en fils et e filhas, so ditz lo Senhor Deus totz poderos.

[3.19] Et en l'autre loc dix: O quiretz l'esproament de Crist que parla e mi.

[3.20] Et en la primeire Apistola a Timoteu dix: Aquestas causa[s] escrivi a tu esperantz mi venir a tu viasament, mais si eu me tarzarei, que sapias en qual maneira te covenga coversar en la maiso de Deu, la quals es /237c/ Gleisa del viu Deu, coronda e fermament de veritat.

[3.21] Et el meteis dix als Ebreus: Mais Crist es enaissi coma Fils en la sua maiso, la qual maiso em nos.

[3.22] Quar l'Esperit de Deu sia com li fizel de Jesu Crist, enaissi o demostra Crist en l'Avangeli de sanh Joan: Si mi amatz, li mei comandament gardatz.

[3.23] Et eu pregarei lo Paire, et autre Cofortador donara a vos, que estia ab vos en durabletat, Esperit de veritat, lo qual lo mon no pot recebre quar no l'vi ni l'sab; mais vos le conoisseretz, quar ab vos estara et ab vos sera.

[3.24] No vos laissarei orfes; venrei a vos.

[3.25] Et en l'Avangeli de sanh Mateu dix: Vec vos qu'eu so ab vos per totz dias entro a l'acabament del segle.

[3.26] E sanh Paul dix en la primeira Pistola als Corintias: No sabetz que vos esz temple de Deu lo viu e l'Esperit de Deu esta

e vos?

[3.27] Mais si alcus corrupra lo temple de Deu, Deus destrozira lui.

[3.28] Quar lo temple de Deu es sanh, lo qual esz vos.

[3.29] Enaissi o demostra Crist en l'Avangeli de sanh Mateu: Quar /237d/ no esz vos que parlatz mais l'Esperit del vostre Paire que parla e vos.

[3.30] E sanh Joan dix en la Pistola: En aisso sabem quar en lui estam et el e nos quar del seu Esperit dec a nos.

[3.31] E sanh Paul dix als Galatas: Quar esz fil de Deu, Deus trames l'esperit del seu Fil el vostre cor, cridant: Paire, Paire.

[3.32] Per que es a entendre quar lo vostre presetament, lo qual fes denant les fils de Jesu Crist, coferma la fe e la presicatio de la Gleisa de Deu segon que las devinas Escripturas o donan az entendre.

[3.33] Quar lo poble de Deu se departic ancianament del seu Senhor Deu.

[3.34] E departic se del co·s·selh e de la voluntat del seu sanh Paire per lo decebement e per lo sotzmetement dels malignes esperitz.

[3.35] E per aquestas razos, e per moutas d'autras, es donat az entendre quar lo sanh Paire vol mercenejar del seu poble e recebre lui a patz e a la sua concordia per l'aveniment del seu Fil, Jesu Crist.

[3.36] Don es aquesta l'ocaizo quar esz aici denant los decipols /238a/ de Jesu Crist, el qual loc abita esperitalment lo Paire e l Fil e l Sant Esperit, aissi co desus es demostrat, que vos dejatz recebre aicela santa Oracio, la qual donec lo Senhor Jesu Crist a sos decipols, enaissi que las vostras Oracios e las vostras pregueiras sian eissauzidas del nostre sanh Paire.

[3.37] Per la qual causa devetz entendre, si aquesta santa Oracio voletz recebre, quar cove vos pentir de totz les vostres

pecatz e perdonar a totz homes.

[3.38] Quar lo nostre Senhor Jesu Crist dix: Si no perdonaretz als homes li pecat de lor, ni l vostre Paire celestial no perdonara a vos los vostre pecatz.

[3.39] De rescaps se cove que perpausetz e vostre cor de gardar aquesta santa Oracio totz les temps de la vostra vida, si Deus donara a vos gracia de recebre ela, segon la costuma de la Gleisa de Deu, ab castetat, et ab veritat, et ab totas bonas autras vertutz las quals Deus volra donar a vos.

[3.40] Per la qual causa pregam le bo Senhor, lo qual donec vertut de recebre aquesta santa Oracio als dicipols de Jesu Crist ab fer- /238b/ metat, que el mezeis done a vos gracia de recebre ela ab fermetat, et a onor de lui e de la vostra salvatio.

[3.41] Parcite nobis.

[3.42] E puis l'ancia diga la Oracio e l crezentz que la seguia.

[3.43] E puis diga l'ancia: Aquesta santa Oracio vos liuram que la recepiatz de Deu, e de nos, e de la Gleisa, e que ajatz pozzestat de dir ela totz les temps de la vostra vida, de dias e de nuitz, sols et ab cumpanha, e que jamais no mangetz ni bevatz que aquesta Oracio no digatz primeirament.

[3.44] E si o faziatz en falha, auria vos obs qu'en portessetz penedensa.

[3.45] Et el deu dir: Eu la recebi de Deu, e de vos, e de la Gleisa.

[3.46] E puis fassa so miloier e reda gracias.

[3.47] E puis li crestia fasan dobla ab venias, e l crezent detras els.



# **BERSERKER**

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